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# HOME & DECOR

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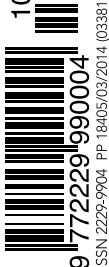
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NOW

The Latest in Design and Decor News



16

16

**HOT SEAT - SPECIAL**  
We feature four of our region's most familiar and well-loved chairs.



24

24

**CHECK OUT - ART - SHUH LEE**  
Drawing inspiration from pop culture on MTV and Channel V, this designer's works are fun and vibrant.



CHECK OUT

34



32

32

**NEW SHOP - KITAKITA**  
Locally-sourced arts and crafts make their home in KitaKita's newly-refurbished shop.

28

**PEOPLE - SHERMAINE WONG & AI LIM**  
Two minds from online interior curators Tish and fashion destination Cuevolution come together to create a great new scent, the lychee peony candle.

36

**PEOPLE - TERRY BLACKBURN**  
The CEO of Ensign Media shares his insights on the recently held Southeast Asia Property Awards 2015 and how awards affect property quality and developer mindsets.

**CHECK OUT - 123GASING**  
Once a motor workshop, this cafe is teeming with wall art and full of warmth.



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No: 45 & 47, Jalan SS18/1B, 47500 Subang Jaya, Selangor Darul Ehsan, Malaysia.  
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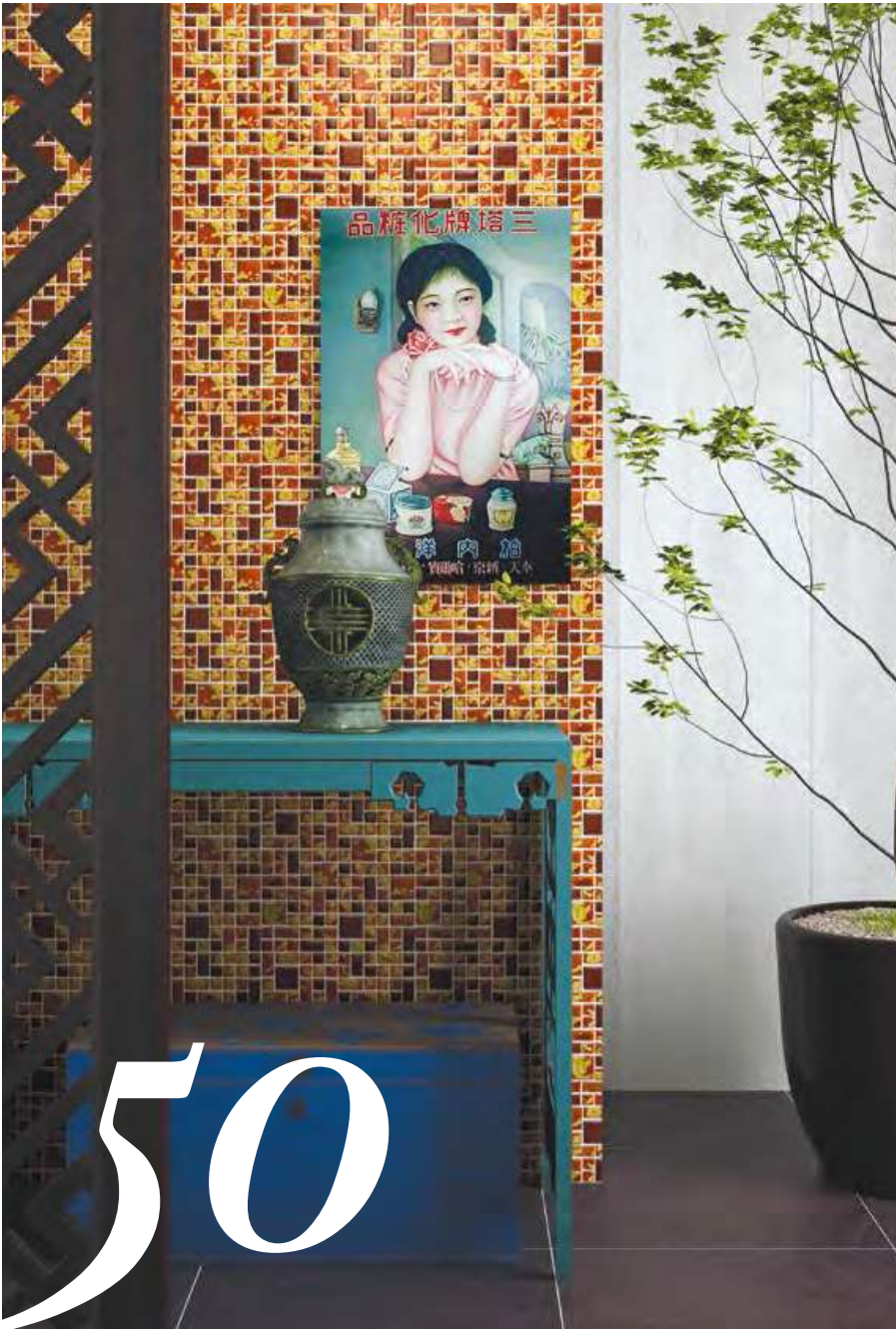
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94



50

FEATURES

46

THE FUTURE  
ACCORDING TO IKEA

Ikea has the uncanny knack of knowing what homeowners around the world want, even before they know it themselves.

94

31 WAYS TO CREATE  
A COLONIAL  
INSPIRED HOME

Be inspired by the aesthetics of yesteryear! Here are 31 one of our favourite ways to give your space some Colonial-style spirit.

50

MATERIAL  
MATTERS

From wallpaper to tiles, to fabrics, to window coverings, our special will make sure you're set for everything you need to know for your next home remodel!

106

EXPERT SERIES -  
ORANGE

We pair up with the chefs of Aubergine Catering and Events to bring you part one of this six-part feature! This month, learn why eating orange foods is good for the body.



106



# THE RIGHT DIMENSIONS



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HOMES



122

LESS IS MORE

Thanks to sleek structures which hide almost everything, this home is always clutter-free and stylish.



128

NOT TOO SMALL FOR STYLE

The shoebox size of this newly built flat doesn't deter it from having loads of personality and character.



134

FREE AND EASY

This pre-war conserved flat now has an open layout – even its private areas have flexible partitions for openness.



142

DARING DESIGNS

Offbeat customised furniture pieces are the talking points of this rustic-industrial home.

REGULARS

- 12 EDITOR'S NOTE
- 158 EXPERTS SAY
- 164 KITCHEN
- 166 ECO WARRIOR
- 167 WHERE TO BUY
- 168 FLASHBACK

ON THE COVER

Charade collection, Estelle, from Acacia Fabrics. Classiko retro design tiles, from Terracotta Tiles. Geo Black and White, from Guocera. Wooden blinds' slats, from Bilton Industrial Products.



photography LILIAN TAN & ROBIN YONG  
art direction EMMELYN CINDY MAH





p.c. studio - photo tommaso sartori

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# HOME & DECOR

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|||||

## EDITORIAL

**Deputy Editor**  
**Emmelyn Cindy Mah**  
(emmelynmah@bluinc.com.my)

**Writer**  
**Ng Yi Xiang**  
(yixiang@bluinc.com.my)

**Editorial Assistant**  
**Hanny Kee**  
(hannykee@bluinc.com.my)

|||||

## CREATIVE

**Creative Director**  
**Frederick Lim**  
(fred@bluinc.com.my)

**Senior Graphic Designer**  
**Chang Ming Hin**  
(minghin@bluinc.com.my)

|||||

## PHOTOGRAPHY

**Photographers**  
**Daniel Lai**  
(daniellai@bluinc.com.my)

**Edmund Lee**  
(edmundlee@bluinc.com.my)

**KK Yong**  
(keenkyong@bluinc.com.my)

**Patrick Chan**  
(patrickchan@bluinc.com.my)

**Contributing Photographers**  
**Law Soo Phye**  
(soophye.com@gmail.com)

|||||

## ADVERTISING SALES

**Advertising Directors**  
**Heng Chip Hian**  
(heng@bluinc.com.my)

**Simon Ling**  
(simon@bluinc.com.my)

**Sales Manager**  
**Michelle Yow**  
(michellyow@bluinc.com.my)

**Advertising Sales Executive**  
**Jessy Lai**  
(jessy@bluinc.com.my)

**Marketing & Advertising  
Operations**  
**Monique Tan**  
(tanernyee@bluinc.com.my)

|||||

**Senior Circulation &  
Subscription Manager**  
**Francine Louis**  
(francine@bluinc.com.my)

**Assistant Circulation &  
Subscription Manager**  
**Kenneth Sew**  
(kennethsew@bluinc.com.my)

**Junior Executive,  
Circulation & Subscription**  
**Mohd Fadzli Saleh**  
(fadzli@bluinc.com.my)

**Production Manager**  
**Satvinder**  
(skaur@bluinc.com.my)

**Assistant Production Manager**  
**Kong Ah Kuan**  
(ahkuan@bluinc.com.my)

**Assistant Traffic Manager**  
**Lee Phaik Ling**  
(phaikling@bluinc.com.my)

**Traffic Executive**  
**Fabian Ong**  
(fabianong@bluinc.com.my)

|||||

**BluInc**

**Chief Executive Officer**  
**Datin Azliza**  
**Ahmad Tajuddin**  
(azliza@bluinc.com.my)

**Senior Consultant**  
**Loo Kit Choong**  
(kitchoong@bluinc.com.my)

**General Manager, Business  
Development And New Media**  
**Mohd Faizal Abdul Hadi**  
(faizal@bluinc.com.my)

**Head Of Corporate  
Communications**  
**Margaret Sebastian**  
(msebastian@bluinc.com.my)

**Senior Human Resources  
Manager**  
**Habibah Muhammad**  
(bib@bluinc.com.my)

**Senior Finance Manager**  
**Shireen Goh**  
(shireengoh@bluinc.com.my)

**Research Manager**  
**Audrey Chan**  
(audreychan@bluinc.com.my)

|||||

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**Subscription Enquiries:**  
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**Ad Sales Enquiries:**  
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## HOME & DECOR SINGAPORE

**SPH Magazines Pte Ltd**  
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fax: +65 6319 6345,  
e-mail:  
maghomeanddecor@sph.com.sg,  
website:  
www.sphmagazines.com.sg

**Editor**  
**Rebeckka Wong**  
(wongspr@sph.com.sg)

**Associate Ad Sales Director**  
**Kevin Foo**  
(kevinfoo@sph.com.sg)

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**MPG MEDIA PUBLISHING**  
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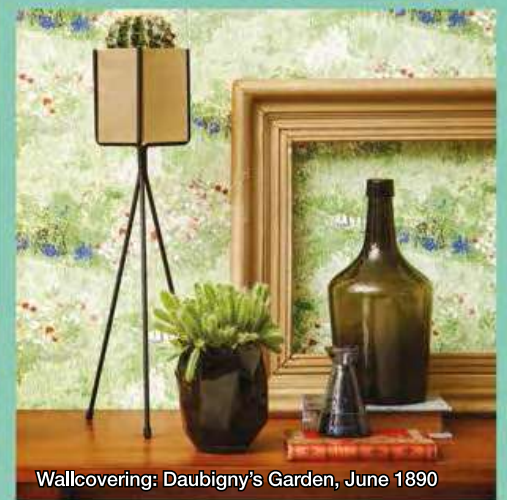


Wallcovering: Irises, May 1890

"I dream  
my paintings  
then I paint  
my dreams."  
by  
**Van Gogh**



Wallcovering: Piles of French Novels, Oct 1887



Wallcovering: Daubigny's Garden, June 1890

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# material matters

It's not a stretch to say that the heart and soul of architecture and design lies in the quality and selection of materials. Materials are prevalent in our daily lives, even if we don't notice them most days. They lie tucked away in our homes; in the wood of our kitchen cabinets, in the porcelain of our dinner plates, in the upholstery of our chairs, down to the soft, plush sheets we sleep swathed in.

To commemorate the fact that materials do, indeed, matter, we've put together a spread of retro flooring, fabrics, and wall and window coverings! Be sure to check **page 50** to find inspiration, whether you're up for a major remodel, or just looking to add some zest and colour to a dull space! .

We absolutely couldn't stand discussing the retro aesthetic without bringing up colonial furnishings and styles from our past! Check out 31 fabulous ways to indulge your colonial

side on **page 94**. Cooking enthusiasts should also flip to **page 106** for part one of six of our exclusive feature with the chefs behind Aubergine Catering and Events. Be sure to follow us in coming months as they show us the joys of eating our colours!

October is also a time of excitement for home-furnishing enthusiasts. Looking for inspiration and good deals? Come join us at HOMEDEC Part 2, from the 29th of October to the 1st of November! We'll be holding contests, so keep your eyes peeled for more information on our Facebook page.

As always, we've got a collection of homes for your exclusive viewing pleasure. These five flat owners show us what it truly means to stretch the boundaries of creativity, defying space to make their homes truly, home. We hope you'll enjoy them.

Have a great month ahead!



EMMELYN CINDY MAH  
DEPUTY EDITOR



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### *Van Gogh's masterpieces, your walls*

Despite his life as a tortured artist, Vincent Van Gogh's post-impressionist works are beautiful to behold. Goodrich Global's pieces pay homage to these works with a collection of fine wallpapers. Read more about the artist! <http://tinyurl.com/ncqgsrd>



### *How to: bathroom tiling*

Want to add some magic to your bathroom with tiles? Here's how. <http://tinyurl.com/qh6few3>



### *Choosing a backsplash for the kitchen*

The backsplash in your kitchen must be many things: stylish, suitable, and easy to clean of oil and cooking stains. Here are some options! <http://tinyurl.com/q6x92qc>



# Now

## Magnetic Pull

The Blow table lamp by Studio Italia Design is both functional *and* statement-making. Its avant-garde, minimalist design makes use of a magnet on the outer surface of the mouth-blown crystal globe to direct the light source. A work of art, and science!

Blow by Studio Italia Design, \$1,028, is available at Krislite, #05-01 Krislite Building, 9 Loyang Way, Singapore, tel: +65-6543-8000.





Here we feature four of our nation's most familiar and well-loved chairs.  
You may have listened to childhood stories, watched your favourite  
TV shows or sipped *kopi* sitting on one of these chairs.



### *Kopitiam chair*

Way before there were hipster cafes, the traditional *kopitiam* (or coffee shop) was the place to gather and discuss the news of the day over a cup of *kopi-O* and a slice of *kaya* toast. Here, customers were likely to be perched (typically with one leg up) on one of these chairs. Made from pliable, hardy beech wood, the chair has a contoured spindle back and moulded plywood seat. While the chair is part of local culture, it has its origins in faraway Eastern Europe. It was (and still is) produced in the Czech Republic and Poland, where bentwood technology originated.

To keep costs low, the seats were knocked down and flat-packed before being shipped in

bulk. They were then assembled in workshops, locally branded and sold.

“The *kopitiam* chair was well-liked because it is lightweight, comfortable and so durable that it can be used for decades,” says Lilian Goh of Lim Teck Lee Group, which has been selling its “Cock” brand *kopitiam* chair for over 70 years. The company even had its signature floral motif designed, trademarked and embossed on the seat.

#### **Lim Teck Lee Group**

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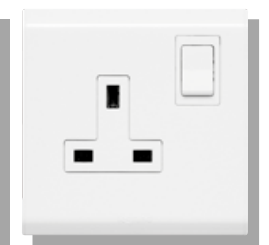
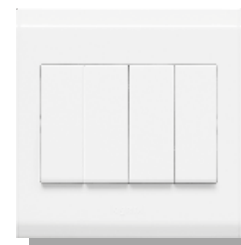


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### Rattan shell chair

If you grew up in the 1960s or 1970s, you probably would have taken a childhood photo on one of these chairs. Fondly called the shell chair, it was a familiar sight in many homes and photography studios. Rattan was widely used in furniture-making in the tropics because it is lightweight, long-lasting, flexible and could be worked into many styles. Taking inspiration from clamshells, craftsmen started making these seats in the 1950s, selling them to both locals and expatriates.

"Both young and old enjoyed lounging on it because it's so cooling," says 66-year-old rattan maker Chen Foon Kee. They were individually made by hand – by winding and weaving rattan reeds in

concentric circles, starting from the centre, "much like spinning a spider's web". Foon Kee, who took over his father's rattan shop in 1970, recalls how he could deftly make six of these seats a day to meet demand.

The chairs costed just RM21 in those days, which probably explains why it was so commonplace. The humble seat serves as an enduring reminder of our childhood days. For some, it has lasted for years with generations growing up on it, as it made its way from five-foot ways to flats.

#### **Chun Mee Lee Rattan Furniture**

Block 122 Bukit Merah Lane 1, #01-68, Singapore,  
tel: +65-6278-2388



# lifestyle themes



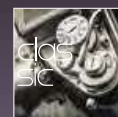
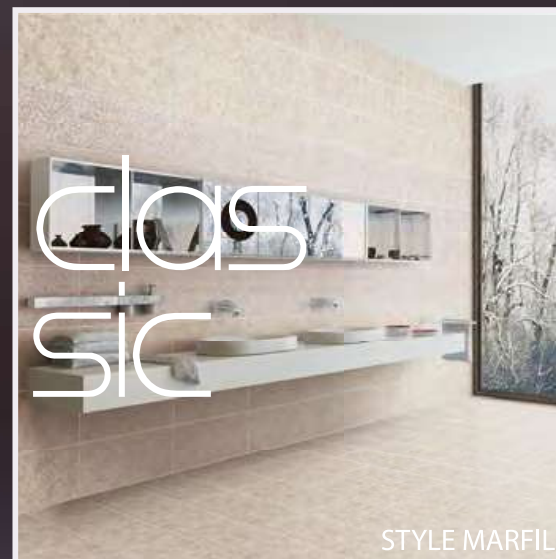
Contemporary means a break of traditional norms and new concept of richness of design thinking in minimalistic interior.



Nature is an appeal of natural element that bring calm and peace. Natural elements such as wood, cotton, leather and stone to name a few.



Colour is a base hues enlivened with accents of color which bring a monotonous box into a fresh lively room.



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### Unica plastic stool

Patronise any coffee shop today and chances are, you'll sit on one of these plastic stools. Lightweight, yet compact and sturdy, the Unica stool was made for use in modern-day coffee shops and food centres where space is usually tight.

It was designed in the 1990s by industrial designer Chew Moh-Jin of Design Counsel, and produced by local plastics manufacturer Singa Plastics. Back then, plastic chairs were flimsy and wobbly, so the brief was to develop a sturdy and robust stool.

The hole in the centre of the seat serves two practical purposes – for easy lifting and, more importantly, when the stools are stacked at the

end of the workday, they could be secured by threading a chain through it, and locked. "People are surprised that the stool was designed some 20 years ago in Singapore. It looks contemporary because it has a simple aesthetic form," says Moh-Jin.

Since its introduction, more than a million of these stools have been sold. It's no wonder, then, that the Unica stool has become synonymous with local makan and kopi culture.

#### **Singa Plastics Limited**

1 Fourth Chin Bee Road, Singapore, [www.singaplastics.com](http://www.singaplastics.com),  
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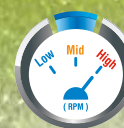
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### ***Pak Awang chair***

Made of solid teak and inspired by the organic, sleek lines of Mid-Century Modern Scandinavian furniture, the Pak Awang chair typically comes with curved armrests, tapered legs, a spindle backrest and removable cushions.

The seat got its name when it was popularised by the 1960s Malay TV sitcom *Pak Awang Temberang* ("Mr Awang's Antics"), which featured the chairs in the living room set. The show was such a hit, it spun off a furniture trend in Malay homes. Back then, newlyweds would have a set custom-made by local Shanghainese craftsmen for their first homes. A full set consisted of a three-seater sofa, two armchairs, a coffee table and two side tables.

"People liked the Pak Awang chair because it looked light, modern and fit well into small flats. It was also very practical as the cushion covers could be removed and washed," said Sharifah Maznah Syed Omar, who owns vintage furniture shop Second Charm.

In its heyday, this seat was such a mainstay that many shops sold pre-packed cushion cover sets, especially during festive occasions such as Hari Raya and Chinese New Year.

#### **Second Charm**

Block 21 Kallang Avenue, Mapletree Industrial Building, #05-165, Singapore, [www.secondcharm.net](http://www.secondcharm.net), tel: +65-6294-2919





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ART

SHUH LEE

THE BUBBLY PERSONALITY OF FASHION DESIGNER AND ARTIST SHUH LEE IS REFLECTED THROUGH HER FUN AND DYNAMIC CREATIONS. "A BIG HELLO TO ALL HOME & DECOR READERS!" SHUH GREETES.





She colours our world with soft pastel and bright hues. Malaysian-born Shuh's expressive creations comprise artworks, greeting cards, pillow covers, illustrations, prints, scarves, and accessories like necklaces. The artist explores with a variety of shades and organic as well as geometric shapes, using felt to present compositions in her works of art.

Shuh describes them as "playful and whimsical, with an emphasis on smaller details. "I enjoy working with abstract shapes and unrefined patterns, creating an organic cohesion between colour, silhouettes and materials." She says.

Inspired by pop culture in music videos on MTV and Channel V, Shuh's candy-coloured works

are fun, creative and refreshing. They can be incorporated into a home of various styles, from a contemporary living space to a child's bedroom without the need of homeowners fussing over a gender-biased wall palette.

Her subtle use of white, both as a base and a background colour helps to balance and distribute intense hues in a room, saving homeowners from investing in large, expensive projects. A playful wall display, Giant Rope looks as if it belongs in an art gallery. Art lovers are able to enhance their unique interior designs using creative ways to display these in their homes.

"Felt comes in bright and fun colours which are great aesthetics-wise," Shuh says.

Her works are evidently made with care and love. According to the artist, her passion for art and design started during her primary and high school years. She recalls participating in several drawing competitions, and also submitted artworks for newsletter covers, club badges for the Interact Club, as well as annual school magazines.

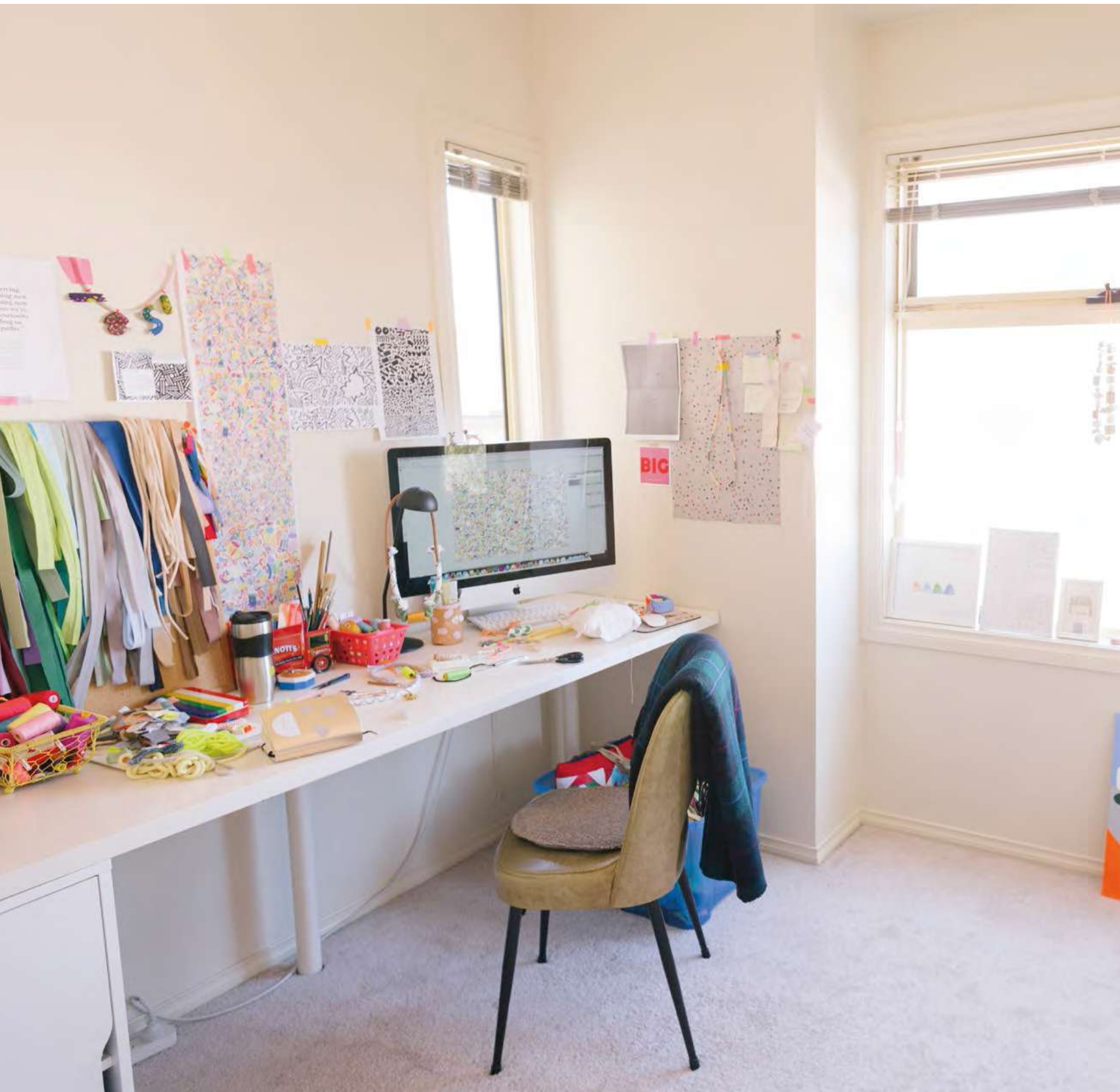
At twelve years of age, she was exposed to her father's commercial silkscreen printing workshop. "I was fascinated by the entire process, from developing the silkscreen to choosing the colours for the job," She recalls.

Despite living comfortably in familiar surroundings in Kuala Lumpur for years, Shuh was curious; she wanted to be exposed to a new environment. ▶

{ "I enjoy working with abstract shapes and unrefined patterns, creating an organic cohesion between colour, silhouettes and materials."











Such would prompt her to make a huge leap, from attending a foundation in art and a Diploma in Fashion and Retail Design at Limkokwing Institute of Creative Technology (LICT) (now Limkokwing University of Creative Technology), to completing her Degree in Fashion at RMIT in Melbourne, Australia.

With the combined knowledge of both art and design, the artist feels she is able to learn and offer more to her clients. Shuh interned at a luxury goods house, MaterialByProduct, where she kept close observation on the work process and learnt how to hand-stitch garments.

Shuh subtly embeds her skills as a fashion designer into her artworks. Keen observers with a love of handcrafted works would no doubt notice neat little rows of thread that keep her work in place on pieces of calico. "I see art as part of my life and designing as my outlet to get those creative juices flowing," Shuh admits.

With the assistance and support of the art and design markets of Melbourne, the artist established shuh., her very own brand. "There is a great community of designers and artists here," Shuh, who

is currently working from her home studio in Australia, says. In collaboration with Gemma Patford, a local rope basket maker, she created artworks for the annual Linden Postcard Show which was launched in August. Shuh is currently working on a new range of products for the Big Design Market in December.

For one whose passions weren't initially art and designing, Shuh has certainly come a long way.

We ask if the platforms available to artists and designers in Australia and Malaysia are different. "I think both countries are culturally diverse and they offer different possibilities to designers. I have yet to discover the opportunities in Malaysia, which I am excited to find out when I come back," Shuh responds, ever effervescent.

Shuh enjoys playing with a combination of various materials, and is currently finding new ways to turn unwanted remnants and random objects into interesting, useable and fun objects. Hand-stitched rope necklaces were the first item to be created under the shuh. label. ●



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT [WWW.SHUHL.COM](http://WWW.SHUHL.COM).





## SHERMAINE WONG AND AI LIM

GOOD TASTE COMES TOGETHER IN THE COLLABORATIVE WORK OF INTERIOR CURATOR, TISH'S SHERMAINE WONG AND ONLINE FASHION DESTINATION, CUEVOLUTION'S AI LIM. HAVING LAUNCHED THEIR BRAND NEW LIMITED EDITION CANDLE, LYCHEE PEONY, THE DYNAMIC DUO SPEAKS ON THEIR WORK, AND THEIR MISSION TO BRING THEIR OWN MAGICAL BREEZE INTO OUR HOMES.

ABOVE  
The masterminds behind Tish and Cuevolution, Shermaine Wong (left) and Ai Lim share a dedication to chic living, and have always wanted to collaborate.



**Tell us about Tish. What inspired you to start this brand?** **Shermaine:** Tish is a shop of style inspiring home and everyday luxury. We offer curated homeware sourced locally and from around the world, as well as personalised gifts made with love and respect for the environment. Our products celebrate individualism while being kind to the earth. We also offer event styling services too!

I personally wanted to decorate my new home with chic stylish pieces that had character and soon realised the lack of curated interior and personalised pieces in Malaysia. When there were some to be found, they were all so expensive. Personally, I think luxury isn't necessarily expensive and you can style and decorate your home with affordable homeware which exudes everyday luxury and are great in quality and craftsmanship.

**Would you say Tish aims to inspire homeowners insofar as accessorising goes?** **Shermaine:** Yes, definitely! Tish believes that your home should make you smile. Just like

your wardrobe, your home should reflect your personality, and you should definitely personalise your space by decorating it with things that tell a story and mean something to you.

**What would you say is the style of interior decoration championed by Tish?**

**Shermaine:** Chic, stylish, and affordable luxury.

**Tell us about the Lychee Peony scented organic candle. What inspired this collaboration?**

**Shermaine:** Ai and I have always wanted to work together, so we did! We share a similar dedication to the chic and understated approach, and it was important to me that both Tish and Cuevolution focused on craftsmanship and quality.

The Tish x Cuevolution 'Lychee Peony' scented organic candle is an east-meets-west fragrance featuring a perfected blend of the delicate freshness of lychee with the subtle softness of peony. The unique fragrance is masterfully blended to assure



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that these two dominant notes blend together in perfect unison.

Tish candles are made in Malaysia and created using high-quality pure vegetable wax and natural lead-free cotton wicks. Free from petroleum-based paraffin wax and animal fat, Tish organic candles have clean burning properties and do not emit soot, making the products both sustainable and eco-friendly.

**Given Cuevolution's success as a fashion brand, what brought you to collaborating on the Lychee Peony scented organic candle?**

**Ai:** I first fell in love with her candles and her brand. And as we got to know each other, I realised we shared very similar values with our business and her approach to interiors was very similar to Cuevolution's style philosophies in terms of quality and craftsmanship. Being candle lovers, we bonded over candles and before we knew it, we were talking about collaborations – it was a very natural progression.

**Tell us about the packaging of the Lychee Peony scented candle box set.**

**What was the concept you went with? Ai:** Initially, I wanted a clear message with images of peonies and lychees on the box, but ultimately, I decided to go with what I felt and loved about peonies and lychee. The mood that struck while I was painting is what you see on the box today: pink and bits of white, which are both representative of the main scents blended well together. Overall, I went for that soft, fluffy sweet feeling I get when I think of the two. The hints of yellow are that ray of happiness and mix of emotions that shine through when you receive something you love.

**Do you think your love of painting and art contributes to your line of work in fashion?**

**Ai:** Yes, I think the two go hand in hand. Just like art, fashion is a form of expression of one's emotions, thoughts and creativity. Except with fashion, you get to take it everywhere with you; it does not just sit in the closet. You bring a piece of the designer's hard work and effort with you when you wear it, and it's lovely when the two come together, as it creates a different effect.

In dressing, we're the canvas for the artwork of clothes and accessories. No two people can pull off the same look down to a T. It will always look different somehow, depending on the style and personality of the person wearing it, and also how it is worn and paired. I would say like art, everyone's



interpretation of what you wear or how you wear the clothing is different, and could strike a different mood for the viewer. It is also pretty mood-dependent and an accessory or a piece of clothing could add a little sparkle to your day. You become an art-piece yourself, almost. This is what makes the line more interesting.

**Do you think this collaboration could pave the way forward for more work in interiors?**

**Ai:** Perhaps in the future, yes. At the moment, we have three talented artists on board, Hollie Martin, Jasmine Gan and Kim Yahya, neatly tucked into Cuevolution's gift for the home section. Two of them have actively exhibited in London (Kim) and Sydney (Hollie). Kim has exhibited alongside leading contemporary artists Martin Creed and Mark Wallinger and auctioned his work "Windows" at Christie's with all proceeds going to charity, while Hollie has had her third solo exhibition at China Heights Gallery in Surry Hills, Sydney. It would be interesting to see where this leads us. ●



LYCHEE PEONY IS PRICED AT RM 59.90 AND IS AVAILABLE EXCLUSIVELY AT [WWW.TISH.MY](http://WWW.TISH.MY) AND [WWW.CUEVOLUTION.COM](http://WWW.CUEVOLUTION.COM)





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## KITAKITA

SET IN A BEAUTIFUL COLONIAL-INSPIRED BUILDING OWNED BY THE PROPRIETOR OF VICTORIA'S STATION STEAK HOUSE, KITAKITA FACES A BEAUTIFUL COURTYARD WITH A STUNNING VIEW INCLUDING A FOUNTAIN FRAMED BY TROPICAL PALM TREES.

The beautiful architecture and structure, fringed by Dentil Frieze detailing, provides a refreshingly unique experience of local culture for shoppers. Newly expanded, KitaKita is a feast for the eyes inside and out.

Bright and airy, the shop reflects the minimalist interior choices of owners Nori Abdullah Badawi, Mona Jamaluddin, Hana Jamaluddin and Pam Shahril. Modern structural lamps are paired with light-brown wooden furnishings, set against stark white walls to render the space wider and more open.

With copious amounts of space, KitaKita offers its patrons a relaxed atmosphere in which to shop and browse. All-in-all, these elements and floor to ceiling glass windows are incorporated to highlight and complement the detailed patterns and vibrancy of the various Batik designs one finds meticulously placed about the shop. The surroundings emanate an uncluttered atmosphere vital to a space selling local handmade crafts,

and especially one as ornate as Batik.

At KitaKita, one finds different types of traditional Batiks sourced from all over the region. We're shown the native works of Sarawak's very own Pua Kumbu crafted by the Iban community. There are also breathtaking works from the award-winning designers of the Piala Seri Endon Batik Design Competition.

Apart from these, one also finds silk songkets at KitaKita. Made with intricate gold thread detailing, these songkets are sourced from two premium brands including Atikah's Songket. KitaKita also offers artworks from local artists including Harris Ribu and Ade Putra, commissioned products such as intricate bead necklaces, pewter from Royal Selangor, mengkuang baskets, table runners, foot stools, coasters, plush toys, and purses and bags, some of which are crafted in the titik style of design.

Best sellers include the Nori Kebaya dining wares which are

based on the late Datin Seri Endon Mahmood's Kebaya collection and Pua skirts. Books and souvenirs in the form of Kuda Kepang (a traditional dance hailing from Johor) are also available for purchase at the counter. Buying a gift? Don't worry, KitaKita offers free gift-wrapping services. We are also told to look forward to products with less feminine designs, one of which is inspired by the ancient and noble art of Wayang Kulit.

KitaKita first began operations in 2010. Recently, however, the brand welcomes two new additions in the form of a cafe and a "boutique", both of which have taken up residence in the extended space located at the back of the shop. Apart from selling local arts and crafts under one roof and on the GEMFIVE shopping portal, KitaKita also offers interior design services. ●



KITAKITA IS LOCATED AT G 1.10, 1 JALAN MEDAN SETIA BUKIT DAMANSARA, KUALA LUMPUR, TEL: +603-2096-1323.

{ With copious amounts of space, KitaKita offers its patrons a relaxed atmosphere in which to shop and browse.

BELOW  
The shop is a treasure trove for art lovers.

RIGHT  
KitaKita offers bags, purses and Mengkuang boxes.

BOTTOM RIGHT  
The Nori Kebaya dining wares come in a few colours including pink, green and yellow.





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## 123 GASING



had intended, casual and welcoming, the furnishing and set up took close to five months.

Wood, steel, and bare walls form the basis of the café, paying subtle homage to previous days, when the space had housed a vehicle service centre. From the inside, it's spacious, seating a generous number of tables. The bar is an open concept, so one could take a peek at the process of coffee-making from start to finish. Plaques of wood hang overhead the bar counter, denoting the menu of offerings – the combination perhaps speaks of a little chaos, but the slight touch of anarchy is welcome. One can't help but to feel welcomed, given the open and friendly vibe the owners encourage in their patrons.

A combination of custom-made and re-purposed, the furnishings in the café speak of a simple, earthen palette. Lanterns and light bulbs hang over a long wooden table, surrounded with ornate, high-backed chairs and carved wood stools alike. Beyond the café's front doors, flashes of bright blue provide an interesting burst of colour to outdoor seating. But what's really attention grabbing about the café are the murals splashed over each wall.

Up front, one immediately sees a trio of odd, yet effortlessly likeable stick figurines. With bicycle

and air-tire-pump as props, the mural immediately gives off a feel reminiscent of heritage sites the likes of Georgetown and Malacca's Jonker Street. Those decorating the interior walls are no less impressive, a combination of retro glam and cartoon steam punk. Other figurines still depict decorations for tables pushed right up against the walls; a feline friend with which to enjoy a cup of coffee, flowers, and desk lamps to name a few.

Less than half a year in operations, 123Gasing has already seen a steady flow of customers seeking repast for breakfast, lunch, and tea alike. Coffee is a must-have for a café, and theirs is rich and bold in flavour, sourced from a farm in Indonesia. The classic English breakfast and sandwiches are doing particularly well, and with plans in the works to start baking their own bread on site, it's not hard to see why. The team is rich with zeal and passion for their food, down to the very last, minute detail.

It most certainly shows in their food – and most appealingly, it shows also in the unfettered, welcoming heart of the café itself. ●



123GASING IS LOCATED AT NO 123 JALAN GASING, PETALING JAYA. CALL 03-79321979. ALSO CHECK OUT THEIR INSTAGRAM HANDLE @123GASING.

**TOP**  
An old tire pump pays subtle homage to the location's roots as a mechanic's shop.

**BELOW**  
Bare walls are filled with interesting paintings, adding to the quaint vibe of the space.

**BOTTOM RIGHT**  
Almost an artpiece of lights, different pendant lamps and repurposed birdcages hang over a long table that calls to mind school canteens.

The row of shops that house 123Gasing are by no means uncommon in Petaling Jaya. Mechanics, sundry shops, and hawker centres make their home on either side of the café. Still, it stands out, and does so with the sheer brilliance of its décor, which, even from an external glance, is simple, yet eye-catching.

123Gasing is not really rustic. It's not even industrial. What the café truly is, is a mishmash of things that work, with undertones of both combined with an almost carelessly steampunk feel. And while the look and feel of the place is, as its owners

123Gasing is not really rustic. It's not even industrial. What the café truly is, is a mishmash of things that work, with undertones of both combined with an almost carelessly steampunk feel.





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**TERRY  
BLACKBURN**  
CEO, ENSIGN MEDIA

Ever expanding, the property sector of the nation sees new growth every year. Paying tribute to the hard work of developers of the region, Ensign Media's South East Asia Property Awards (Malaysia) 2015 culminated in a Black Tie Gala Dinner at the JW Marriot Kuala Lumpur. We speak to Terry Blackburn, CEO of Ensign Media, for some insight into the property sector.

**Tell us about the Southeast Asia Property Awards. What do you feel these awards bring to the property industry as a whole?** The Southeast Asia Property Awards was launched in Thailand 10 years ago, and have now grown to encompass most of the countries in Southeast Asia. The Best of the Best in each country level event, such as our Malaysia awards, go on to compete in the grand finals in Singapore in October. They have been successful, primarily because of their credibility – they are free to enter and transparently judged. By having consistent entry and judging criteria across the region, the awards allow developers to compare their products with the

best that is available elsewhere in Southeast Asia. The awards act as a platform to showcase ASEAN real estate to the world. Developers in Southeast Asia are increasingly bringing their business across borders, and the awards do their bit to help facilitate that.

**Do you feel these awards are in any way impactful upon potential property owners and those seeking to buy properties?** Whilst we are careful to emphasise that buyers should do comprehensive due diligence before entering into any property transaction, we do hope that the awards give buyers extra confidence in successful properties. The independent panel of judges is overseen by BDO, one of the world's largest audit firms, and we guarantee site inspections for all shortlisted properties, so I believe we deliver the most comprehensive awards system we can, which buyers should take note of.

**Would you say one of the goals of these awards is to inspire developers to consistently raise the bar, therefore further propelling**

**the industry forward?** Absolutely. The awards are intended to be a benchmark for high quality real estate. Hopefully developers will look at the winners and think 'what can I do to achieve that standard?' The fact is that the quality of development in Malaysia and across Southeast Asia is getting better and better every year, and I'm glad we can contribute to encouraging that.

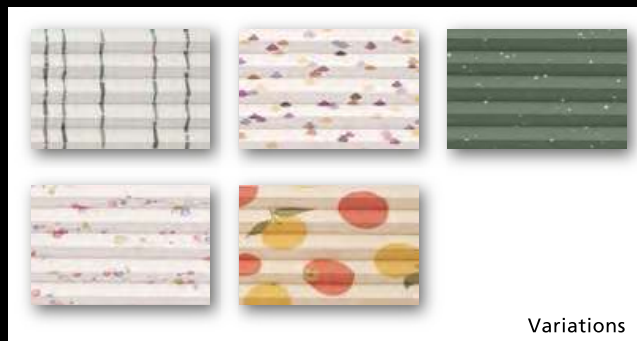
**Tell us about the selection criteria used in compiling the impressive list of finalists.** Design and Amenities, Location, Value for Money, Use of Space, Construction and Materials, Unique Selling Points, State of Completion and Sales Success. There is a detailed entry form and we carry out site inspections, which all these are evaluated from.

**With the implementation of GST, where do you see the property industry of Malaysia heading?** It will mainly impact the re-sale market. I expect new launches may slow a little whilst developers adjust to the costs, but I'd imagine demand will still be strong in 2016. ●





Pleated Blinds



Variations



Variations



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Design Blinds



Variations

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\*Mention this ad with a purchase of TOSO products to receive a gift.



# STAY SECURE WITH SHARP

When most of us think of home security, we're often driven to thoughts of old-school CCTV cameras that stand out, jarringly stark and somewhat out of place in any decor. In the unfortunate case of crime, hours of footage must be painstakingly scanned through to find the exact moment of the break-in. It's a long and tedious process, and one that makes the trauma of being robbed even more horrific.

Enter Sharp's Cloud Smart Home System to combat crime. It's convenient to use, requiring only a smart phone or tablet through which you can access a live video feed of your home, anytime, anywhere. The system alerts in the case of break-ins, allowing you to instantly take action when your home and loved ones are threatened.

**Faizul Ridzuan,  
Author and  
Property Analyst**

For Faizul, home security is important as it helps to counter the increasing rate of burglary and robberies. And because

he's been burgled a few times to date in his parents' landed house, he knows the value of feeling secure in one's own home.

"It's a terrible thing if home doesn't feel safe," Faizul says of this. "Precaution is very important for peace of mind of the family." And because burglars are getting more and more creative in their pursuits, he is of the belief that conventional alarms and CCTV systems are no longer enough to deter them from crime.

To Faizul, a good home security system must be able to outbeat, outwit, and outperform burglars. In doing

so, the system itself must function as a team, operating when activated. It must be able to observe and detect movements so as to counter cut wires and blind spots. To this end, he's impressed by the high resolution, Sharp quality of the Cloud Smart Home System. And with speakers attached, one can even factor communication in.

Being able to remotely access of the system also means convenience, as this negates the possibility of forgetting to turn the security system on and off. "This helps me to prevent from annoying the neighbours

too, which happens when alarms are triggered and cannot be remotely turned off afterwards." He says. "It's also very important that this system enables me to alert several owners at once, as you can never tell when the person at home is going to be attacked."

"I'd definitely recommend the Sharp system," Faizul adds. Many security systems can cost a hefty sum, but he iterates that he's impressed by the affordability of the Cloud Smart Home System. "It's easy to install and simple to handle, if you intend to move it around or to another home."







### **Natejah Ahmad, Head of Communications**

The voice of today's demographic of single working professional adults, Natejah's lifestyle includes outings with friends and frequent visits to her hometown. Her living arrangements, a studio to herself, means a world of anxiety throughout her

frequent travels for work and for leisure.

"I socialise a lot to stay connected, so I spend most of the day outside the house. I love to explore new countries and cultures." She says. "But because I live alone, it's crucial for me to have a home security system I can trust that will notify me



immediately in the case of incidents."

As a traveller, she believes that peace of mind is important to fully enjoy the experience of other countries, cities, and cultures. It's also great to know that, if any incidents occur while I'm travelling, my authorised family members can access the recorded footage to take

necessary action on my behalf."

The Sharp Cloud Smart Home System appeals to Natejah on many levels. She's particularly impressed by its easy installation methods, which feature an easy, DIY set up. "My place is rented, so it's great that there's no wiring, drilling, or hacking needed." Those living alone need not invite strangers into their home for the installation process, thereby eliminating the hassle entirely.

For owners in today's digital age, the ability to control and monitor one's home through a mobile device is a huge plus point. "Remote access is brilliant." Natejah says. "To know that you can monitor and view a live video stream of your home, wherever you are in the world, is just wonderful."



### **Sim Lee, Mother and Commercial Model**

The mother of two young children, Sim Lee often works into the wee hours as a commercial model. Due to her hectic lifestyle, she believes it is vastly important to have a home security system one can count on. For her, home is where all her loved ones are, and

she strongly believes it is important to know what is happening at home at all times.

As far as Sim is concerned, the Sharp Cloud Smart Home System most certainly fits the flexibility of a growing family. She's fond of the system's powerful HD IP cameras and their wireless sensors, and their ability to send her live



video feeds. "I like the idea of knowing what is happening at home when I'm out." She says.

"The ability to hear what my kids are doing, and being able to communicate with them via the camera gives me awareness and convenience in my daily life. I even know when my kid opens her room door." Sim's attached a wireless door sensor to her daughter's room

door, having moved it from the baby gate once her daughter outgrew it.

Sim stands for Sharp's Cloud Smart Home System. "I'd definitely recommend it, especially for working mothers. Sharp has been a longstanding brand for excellence in my household, and it gives me the confidence to trust in their technology."

For more information about the Sharp Cloud Smart Home System, visit <http://www.sharpsmarthome.com>.





## It's a royal show!

Janine has just released a new collection from the Designer's Guild for Autumn/Winter 2015. The new Buckingham collection is reminiscent of the glittering years of the English monarchy, rife with scenes of courtly life, and even a king riding to war with his soldiers. If you want to incorporate a touch of royalty and high society into your life, this is the collection for you.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT [WWW.JANINE.COM.MY](http://WWW.JANINE.COM.MY)

## Your coffee, just the way you want it

The new Nescafe Dolce Gusto Drop Automatic Coffee Machine by Krups steps up to fit the increasing demand for well-made coffees at home. With a maximum 15 bar pump pressure for delivering the most delicious aromas and flavour, this machine is both easy and convenient! Just insert your favourite pod in the chamber, and select the volume of water you need, as well as its temperature. There are 30 kinds of capsules to choose from, so you're definitely spoilt for choice!

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT [WWW.DOLCE-GUSTO.COM.MY](http://WWW.DOLCE-GUSTO.COM.MY)



## Two is better than one

Roca Malaysia has claimed two awards at the Archidex 2015! The booth took a gold award for the Best Booth Design, as well as the New Product Award for its Armani/Roca Water Closet. A complete, functioning showroom on its own, their winning booth boasted two stories and a minimalistic, but elegant black façade. Naturally impressive, the star of the show, the Armani/Roca Water Closet combined simplicity and harmony between haute couture elements, colours and a suspended hide-fix system that conceals any unappealing fixtures with a matte, greige (beige and grey) finishing.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT [WWW.ROCA.COM](http://WWW.ROCA.COM)



## Notes on your phone

The new Samsung Galaxy Note 5 is a force to be reckoned with. An ample 5.7 inch screen, 4GB RAM and an Octa-core Exynos 7240 chip makes it most formidable Android phone in the market. With proprietary Adaptive Fast Charging technology that promises a full charge in an hour, you will never again need to wait to be out and about with your phone. The S-pen also provides true-to-life pressure sensitivity so you can control anything you write or draw. Here's an added bonus! You can take notes with the S-pen without even having to turn the screen on. Also check out the Samsung Galaxy S6 edge+, an extension to the Galaxy S6 edge.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT [WWW.SAMSUNG.COM.MY](http://WWW.SAMSUNG.COM.MY)



## Keep rolling and rolling

Dust is a perpetual enemy in every home. With the new Dyson DC74 Fluffy vacuum cleaner, however, dust becomes a thing of the past. The vacuum cleaner comes with nylon bristles that are fine enough to penetrate mattress fibres for complete removal of dust and dirt. The Digital V6 motor has three times the suction power of any other cordless vacuum cleaners, with 15 cyclones arranged across two tiers to increase airflow while capturing fine dust at the same time. It is also extremely easy to lift because its centre of gravity is located towards the grip, making it perfect for cleaning right up to the ceiling.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT [WWW.VISIONARY.COM.MY](http://WWW.VISIONARY.COM.MY)

## Bringing spaces to life

Zirconio came into existence 50 years ago when the Miralles family founded a small factory to produce double-fired tiles. Throughout the years, Zirconio heralded various different technologies, especially following its acquisition by the Niro Ceramic Group. In conjunction with Zirconio's 50th Anniversary, Niro is offering its customers goods with added value, from sales to cash vouchers of up to RM9,000. The promotion will run from 1 August to 31 December 2015.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, EMAIL [ZIRCONIO50ANNIVERSARY@NIROGROUP.COM](mailto:ZIRCONIO50ANNIVERSARY@NIROGROUP.COM)







## Luxury from Mother Earth herself

Victoria+Albert's baths and basins are special, and exude a sense of royalty and class. Volcanic limestone and a high quality resin are combined in forming a world-class composite, Quarrycast, which boasts exceptional strength to weight ratio. This is what Victoria+Albert baths and basins are made of. Most recently, the company brings us the Amiata, a bathtub that provides elegant proportions with organic curves that can be used in every space imaginable.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT [WWW.VANDBATHS.COM/ASIA/ASIAN-COUNTRIES/](http://WWW.VANDBATHS.COM/ASIA/ASIAN-COUNTRIES/)



## Fan-tastic in design

In our humid Malaysian weather, nothing's as great or as helpful as a good fan for keeping cool. Table fans are perfect for rooms that don't afford enough space for ceiling fans, and can be aimed specifically at you for moments you just need non-stop fanning. What's even better is that you can use them as decorations, invoking the retro aesthetic so beloved by our elders. The R-series table fan from Stadler Form is an absolute dream in design, perfect in its compact 12-inch size and form. Available in four retro-inspired colours; red, yellow, white, and black, the fan boasts coloured blades to match its body, with three speed settings for you to choose from. An adjustable neck allows for you to aim the fan wherever you want, keeping you cool all day, every day.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT [WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/PAGES/BLUE-ORANGE-RESOURCES-SDN-BHD/159482520778992](http://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/PAGES/BLUE-ORANGE-RESOURCES-SDN-BHD/159482520778992) OR [WWW.STADLERFORM.COM](http://WWW.STADLERFORM.COM).



Want to win one of these beauties? We'll be giving away RM 6,000 worth of Stadler Form products at HOMEDEC, so visit us at KLCC from the 29th October to the 1st November 2015 for your chance! Also visit Stadler Form at HOMEDEC, booth 1J135. Follow Home & Decor on Facebook for more updates about how to win, closer to the event!





## The perfect picture

The LG EC930T Curved OLED TV operates on an entirely different playing field. Every single pixel in this TV works independently of the other, creating a whole new experience for watching those dark scenes on your screen. The resulting image showcases a state of perfect blackness, giving you a realistic, vivid view. The response speed of the TV is over a thousand times faster than other LED TVs, so you can also enjoy fast-moving scenes without blurring caused by low frame rates. The TV is also paper-thin, curved to naturally fit the vision range of humans, allowing you to see a perfect picture from any angle.

FOR MORE INFORMATION,  
VISIT [WWW.LG.COM.MY](http://WWW.LG.COM.MY)



## Celebrating a commitment to local arts

KitaKita was born of love for the local arts and a desire to see Malaysian art and design flourish in the hearts and minds of all Malaysians. At KitaKita, customers are able to stop for food at an in-house cafe while shopping for wonderfully crafted and meticulously curated local crafts. KitaKita was conceptualised to share its owners' love for food and crafts, making it convenient for Malaysians to find traditionally-crafted pieces.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT  
[WWW.KITAKITA.MY](http://WWW.KITAKITA.MY)

## Charging it up

The new JBL Charge 2 portable stereo speaker offers the best-in-class sound with dual drivers and passive twin radiators to deliver the deepest and most accurate bass – so much so that you actually can see them trembling! It is powered by a 6000mAh lithium-ion battery that can play up to 12 hours of music, outlasting all-night parties with utter ease. If you are using this speaker for voice conferences, rest assured in its patented noise and echo cancelation technology, which will give you clearer sound output.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT [WWW.HARMANKARDON.COM](http://WWW.HARMANKARDON.COM)







## Pretty in pastels

Forget boring, mundane baking utensils! Bring the new Zenker line of bake ware into your kitchen! With its candied pink, blue, and yellow pastels, this line of bake ware will make your kitchen adventures an absolute treat. They're also made of non-toxic carbon steel, so you can rest assured for your family's good health. Long-lasting and long-wearing, these utensils are also dishwasher safe.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT  
WWW.AINO.COM.MY

## Flipping the market!

We've all been through it. We scour our local flea markets for the best deals but by the time we get home, we realise that it wasn't the best purchase at all. Say goodbye to that feeling, because Flea Market Flip will teach you how to turn items from the flea market into objects that will fetch dramatically higher prices. Each episode will feature two teams with a 500USD budget that they spend on purchasing, redesigning, and repurposing items from flea markets. The sky is the limit, and at the end of the day, the true winner is not the contestant that gets to keep the profits from the flip, but the viewers who learn how to do the same! Catch Flea Market Flip on HGTV, Astro CH731.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.ASTRO.COM.MY



## Drinking in style

Flavoured water is a trend of the present, and it's definitely here to stay. Exquisitely minimalist in design, the Aldoa carafe from renowned German brand Blomus is crafted of stainless steel, clear glass, silicone, and plastic. Perfect for storing ice-cold thirst-quenchers on hot days, the carafe is simple, yet stylish. With a 1.0 litre capacity, the carafe also boasts a large opening to allow for easy filling and cleaning, particularly if you enjoy flavouring your water with large slices of lemon and other refreshing cuts of fruit. The stainless steel lid is easily removable, and enables you to pour without worry of fruit pulp or ice escaping, while the curvature of its body allows for a firm, steady pouring grip.

FOR MORE INFORMATION,  
PLEASE CALL 03-22871998.





## Security in a box

SHARP PRESENTS ITS CLOUD SMARTHOME SECURITY SYSTEM, THE PERFECT SECURITY SOLUTION FOR YOUR HOME

Ensuring your own peace of mind is no longer a faraway notion with Sharp's new Cloud Smarthome Security System. A state-of-the-art CCTV system, it will keep your loved ones and your property secure and well-protected around the clock.

Setting up the network is extremely easy. All you need is a list of devices you plan on connecting to the system and the Sharp Security app,

which is available in both the iOS App Store and the Google Play Store. The connection is established and sustained wirelessly through to the Internet, enabling you to check on your home from a remote location.

The system runs on a mobile cloud system. This means that every node in the system is connected in a single network, be it security camera,

door and window sensor, motion sensor or siren. In the case of any incident, you and all those authorised to access the network will receive immediate notification via your preferred mobile device.

When any event is triggered, the security system will immediately record up to 30 seconds of it. This ensures that you have proof for further action, even if you are away

and cannot reach the scene on time. Furthermore, it also enables your authorised users to take action on your behalf.

The best thing about this system is that it is fully expandable. Constant software updates ensure that the layers of protection around you are continually increased. Simply scan attached QR codes for products you wish to add to the system! ●



THE SHARP CLOUD SMARTHOME SYSTEM COMES IN VARIOUS PACKAGES FOR ALL YOUR NEEDS. FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT [WWW.SHARPSMARTHOME.COM/](http://WWW.SHARPSMARTHOME.COM/).





Swedish furnishings superstore Ikea has the uncanny knack of knowing what homeowners around the world want, even before they know it themselves. Is someone there psychic? Not really – it comes down to lots of research and insights into human behaviour, from visiting customers at home to filming their daily lives (with permission, of course).

To find out what the future holds for home furnishings, *Home & Decor* joined the international media in Almhult recently for the brand's first Democratic Design Day.

Ikea has been championing democratic design for a long time, even before the term was coined. Each product has to

have function (it has to work), form (it has to look beautiful), quality (it has to be durable and safe), be sustainable (it has to be produced in a sustainable way and with sustainable materials) and have a low price so it reaches more people. As Ikea CEO Peter Agnelfall puts it: "We are on a transformational journey to building better products for customers, and doing it in a way which will have a positive effect on people and the climate."

With ambitious plans already in place to make current and future products push the envelope of democratic design, the future according to Ikea certainly looks bright. Here's what to look forward to.



# THE FUTURE ACCORDING TO IKEA

ABOVE  
Swedish textile designer Martin Bergstrom worked with students of the National Institute of Fashion Technology in India for the Svartan collection. It was meant to be a modern interpretation of India and its heritage.



**R I G H T**  
Ikea collaborated with Belgian designer Walter Van Beirendonck because of the way he works with materials and graphic patterns.

**F A R R I G H T**  
Edgy British designer Katie Eary was approached to design products for cooking and entertaining.

**B O T T O M L E F T**  
Set to launch in June 2016, the Glodande range by Walter is based on a gang of characters called the Wondermooi.

**B O T T O M R I G H T**  
Named Giltig, and launching in March 2016, Katie's collection features graphics of eyeballs and ornamental fish.

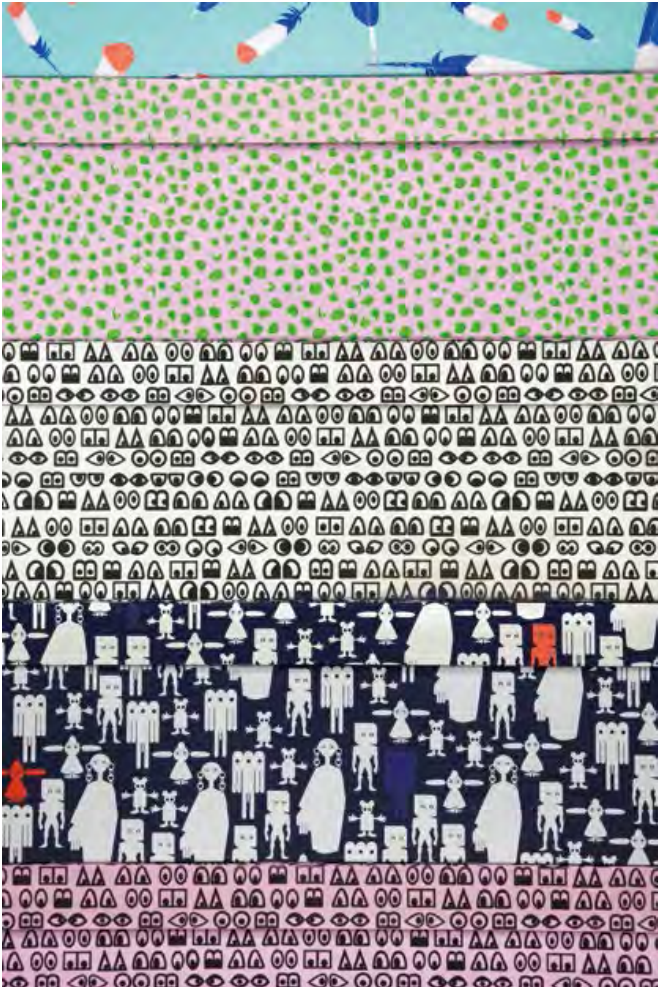


Read our interview with unconventional British menswear designer Katie Eary at [www.tinyurl.com/KatieEary](http://www.tinyurl.com/KatieEary).

►  
**HOMES WILL BE MORE FASHIONABLE**  
“We are curious about fashion,” says Marcus Engman, design manager of Ikea in Sweden. The dynamic nature of the fashion industry means it is quick to pick up what’s going on. And instead of waiting for trends to trickle down to the home furnishings industry, why not reflect the current mood by working directly with fashion designers?

Ikea has three collections waiting to launch that were created in collaboration with British menswear designer Katie Eary (the Giltig range), Belgian fashion designer Walter Van Beirendonck (the Glodande range), and Swedish fashion and textile designer Martin Bergstrom (the Svartan range).

Non-conventional fashion as an expression of individuality can be applied to how you dress your home, too – by challenging traditional notions of what a living area, kitchen, or dining room should look like. ►







## GOING GREEN IN A BIG WAY

One of the five commandments of democratic design is sustainability, and Ikea is setting an example with bold plans and real action to make sure that it walks the talk.

According to Steve Howard, Ikea's chief sustainability officer, this includes having auditors check independent suppliers to make sure there is good environment performance, developing and selling quality LED lights that are also affordable, and embracing renewable energy. Ikea aims to use 100 per cent renewable energy by 2020 for all of its operations.

"By 2020, we will have installed more than a million solar panels. We already own and operate 23 wind farms, and this is better energy. It's good for our business," he says.

The company is also looking at how products can be resold or recycled. In some countries, consumers return old, but still usable, items to the store to be resold, and receive an Ikea gift voucher in exchange. They can also place or discard products at flea markets the company holds.

"We're also turning waste into raw materials, such as making containers with recycled plastic film packaging. Waste now generates profits as a future raw material, rather than being a cost to business," states Steve.

**ABOVE**  
Out at the end of this year, the 30-piece Sinnerlig collection was designed to "connect us to our homes", says Ikea.

**RIGHT**  
These bottles in the Sinnerlig collection are all slightly different, although they were made on a large scale.



## ROOMS WILL HAVE NO SET FUNCTION

When was the last time you ate in your dining room? As cities get more crowded, there's hardly any space (or need) to have separate rooms for separate functions. "There will be much more activity-based zones in the home," says Marcus.

The annual Ikea Life at Home report discovered that 52 per cent of people eat in parts of the home other than the kitchen or dining room. The Ikea 365+ range was revamped with this in mind, with products that make it easier to transport food across your space – whether you're eating on the floor or on the sofa – and to hold the plate with one hand while eating with the other. ➤

## MASS-PRODUCED ITEMS WILL BE UNIQUE, TOO

Can mass-produced items be unique? Ikea seems to think they can, and it has started turning what was once seen as production failures, when a batch of vessels all came out from production looking different, into an advantage.

The Sinnerlig collection by Ilse Crawford (launching end of this year), for instance, includes vases that all look different due to different treatments given during production.

And in the PS collection to be launched in 2016, scrap glass is recycled into new vessels where the form is controlled, but the combination of colours is not. "Perhaps, we should measure quality in terms of uniqueness," ponders Ikea design manager Marcus.





## LIFE WILL BE SLOWER

Our daily life might be intertwined with gadgets, but humans are still completely “analogue”, says Ikea. Increasingly, we crave manual ways of doing things, which has led to the rise of slow movements in food, clothing and communication.

Anvandbar (pictured) is a new collection of products for home gardening, waste management, laundry, cleaning and healthy living. Enjoy doing simple chores the analogue way, such as sweeping the floor with a pan and a brush. Other products let you adopt a smarter way to handle waste.



## More trends we love from Ikea



### COMMUNITY WORK

Ikea is working with social enterprises to provide jobs in rural communities, as well as keep their handicraft traditions alive by giving them access to a global marketplace.

The Kryddglad collection, for example, is a collaboration with social enterprises Rangсутra and Industree Producer Transform in India. What to expect from this handmade range are banana-fibre baskets, place mats, embroidered cushion covers, tablecloths and more.



## FURNISHINGS WILL BE SMARTER

“We decided to do away with disappearing mobile chargers, once and for all,” declares Jesper Brodin, the managing director of Ikea of Sweden, referring to Ikea’s new wireless charging collection.

The products don’t take up extra space, being pieces you already need at home, such as lamps and bedside tables, with the added function of being able to charge your electronic gadgets just by placing the item on them. There’s even a portable charging module called Nordmarke (pictured, above).

The best thing is that this technology is affordable, with products such as the Selje side table priced at just RM315.



### OLD CRAFTS, NEW FORMS

Ikea believes that tactility – how things look, feel and even smell good – is something deeply human and honest. This element drives collections such as Viktigt, a range that renowned Swedish artist Ingegerd Raman has created with artisans in Vietnam.

Using local natural materials such as water hyacinth, rattan, bamboo and sea grass, the pieces are exciting for their fusion of clean, contemporary Scandinavian shapes with textural and rustic tropical materials. ●



# SIX SIMPLE RULES TO FOLLOW FOR BUYING WALLPAPER

Thinking of investing in wallpaper? Here are a few tips and tricks to get the best value out of your wallpaper selection!



RIGHT  
Eijffinger's Tout  
Petit collection

NEXT PAGE  
Art of Living  
collection is from  
BN Wallcoverings.

photo GOODRICH GLOBAL



### **How much wallpaper can you get out of a roll or a bolt?**

The wider the roll, the fewer strips are required. European or metric double rolls are 20.5 inches wide with 56 square feet of paper, while American double rolls are wider, at 27 inches and 70 square feet of paper. To cover an eight by ten feet wall using European double rolls, you will need 80 square feet worth of paper. Divide 80 square feet by 56 usable square feet per roll, and you'll arrive at 1.45 bolts, which should be rounded off to two bolts, to provide room for error. Don't worry if that made your head spin. You can make these calculations online for free at [www.diy.com/help-advice/wallpaper-calculator/Dev\\_npcart\\_100005.art](http://www.diy.com/help-advice/wallpaper-calculator/Dev_npcart_100005.art).

### **How is wallpaper sold? What is an estimated cost?**

Wallpaper is sold in single, double or triple rolls in varying widths. A common method for cost estimation is calculating the area of the wall to be covered and dividing it by the usable square feet per roll without deducting doors and windows. Prices may also vary depending on the colour, material and special coatings of the wallpaper you choose.

### **How do you make sure every penny is worth the spending?**

Does the price tag include after-sales services? Ask if it includes installation fees, or if extra charges will be levied. You can also save by preventing paper wastage. Be aware of proper cutting and pasting methods to prevent tearing. Use proper tools required such as a sharpened knife, a taping knife, or a trim guide to help avoid lop-sided ends. ►



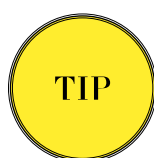
A common method for cost estimation is calculating the area of the wall to be covered and dividing it by the usable square feet per roll without deducting doors and windows.





ABOVE  
The Denim  
collection is from  
BN Wallcoverings.

RIGHT  
This throw  
cushion from  
Nina Campbell's  
Fontibre Collection  
gives some insight  
into why it is  
important to align  
your wallpaper  
properly.



Adhere wallpaper from the centre to the edge.  
Draw a plumb line as a guide for good alignment.  
Use a smoother to paste the wall from left to right.  
Use gentle pressure to get rid of bubbles.

### What are the wall treatments required before and after installing your wallpaper?

To strip off your old wallpaper, wet it with a remover from the bottom up. Leave it to soak and dry before using sandpaper to remove remnants. Next, use fillers to fill in cracks before smoothing and dusting the entire surface. Prep your walls with a primer. It helps to hang wallpaper on glossy or painted walls. Finally, use a sealer on your wallpaper.

### Know a drop match from the straight match.

You need to match the patterns between strips of wallpaper. More paper is required for a drop match as compared to a straight match to ensure patterns are properly aligned at the seams. For example, if a drop match is not applied onto wallpaper with a floral design, images may be disjointed or distorted at two different heights.

### Use the right adhesive to paste wallpaper smoothly.

Wallpapers with backings do not require the purchase of adhesive. However, if you're pasting wallpaper directly onto a wall, you can purchase ready to use heavy-duty adhesives for thick paper and cold water paste which is suitable for most wallpapers.





# MATERIAL WORLD: CHOOSING THE RIGHT WALLPAPER

Picking the right wallpaper for your home is a rewarding venture, an absolute thumbs up, especially when there are a wide variety of designs and fabrics to choose from. Narrowing it down takes patience and a good eye – so here are some answers to your frequently asked questions!



## TIP

Black wallpaper with gold trimmings heightens the dramatic aesthetic in your room. If you prefer neutral colours, choose wallpaper with sparse patterns.



photo GOODRICH GLOBAL



photo GOODRICH GLOBAL

ABOVE  
Harlequin's  
All About Me  
collection.

TOP RIGHT  
Eijffinger's Venue  
collection.

BOTTOM  
RIGHT  
This wallpaper  
from Nina  
Campbell's  
Fontibre collection  
can be paired with  
various fabrics

NEXT PAGE  
Harlequin's Poetica  
collection.

## How do you pick the right design and colour for your wallpaper?

Set a theme. Choose solid coloured wallpapers if you have already upholstered your throw cushions or sofas in a floral design. Be inspired by the colours of your upholstery and pick a colour to complement this for the wall.

Pick the right design and colour that suits not only your personality but the shape and size of a room. If you have an oddly-shaped room, avoid

shiny, reflective wallpaper at all costs. Instead, opt for either light or dark coloured wallpaper.

Master bedrooms with attached bathrooms are the perfect place for beginners in wallpapering projects. Homeowners can play with multiple wallpaper palettes and textures in both rooms by making bolder choices for bathrooms and subtler ones for bedrooms. This applies to open-concept homes, from hallways to the living room.



photo JANINE



## How do you choose the right wallpaper fabric?

Designs and colours are important in selecting wallpaper, but fabric wallpaper speaks of durability and practicality. They can be long-lasting if you know which works best at high traffic areas like the bathroom. These are the four main types of fabric wallpaper that you can choose from.

### Vinyl

These come in four versions, solid vinyl, vinyl coated, fabric and paper backed vinyl. They are used in high traffic areas. Fire retardant, these vinyl wallpapers vary in quality. The former three are best used in bathrooms, bedrooms and playrooms while washable paper backed vinyl will delaminate over time if exposed to too much moisture. Solid vinyl is both water and scratch resistant, easy-to-clean vinyl coated wallpaper is resistant to grease, and fabric backed vinyl can be used over imperfect surfaces.

### Grasscloth

Thin cotton thread is used to weave jute, bamboo or sisal to form grasscloth wallpaper. Suitable for use in low traffic areas, this wallpaper has a textured surface and a rice paper backing. Strong adhesive is required when pasting it onto the wall.

### Flocked

Dramatise your living room with flocked wallpaper, which is an imitation of velvet that is available in soft and hard textures. This wallpaper is not washable.

### Foil

Foil wallpapers come in thin sheets with fabric or fibreglass backings, so they wrinkle and tear easily. Steer clear from outlets and switches. ►



photo GOODRICH GLOBAL









Instead of taking the age-old approach of framed photographs, try introducing life into your space through the use of wallpapers. Some feature designs so ornate and beautifully designed, you'll need no more than some matching throws, pillows, and rugs.

**Harlequin's Amazilia collection is available from Goodrich Global. ➤**











Pair wallpaper with matching tones to create a visually arresting and striking look. This will draw attention to the patterned wallpaper, whilst ensuring your space remains uncluttered.

1. Moods collection, BN Wallcovering, from Goodrich Global
2. Orla Kiely collection, Harlequin, from Goodrich Global. [▶](#)











#### OPPOSITE PAGE

1. Votna in Pewter, Levande collection, Scion, from Goodrich Global.
2. Votna in Saffron, Levande collection, Scion, from Goodrich Global.
3. Saldo, Levande collection, Scion, from Goodrich Global.

Many wallpaper patterns come in different colours and tones. You'll find the effect of paler hues less wearying for the eyes when compared to those darker, despite them sharing the same intricate patterns. Again, balance is everything, so be sure to break up detailed and eye-catching wallpaper patterns with simpler furnishings in flat colours. Choose a few statement pieces and use them to accessorise as desired to add extra colour!

**Kelda, Levande collection, Scion, from Goodrich Global. ●**



# FLOORING 101

Need pointers and recommendations for flooring your home?  
We've got you covered, room for room.



photo NIRO

Flooring is generally understood as the permanent covering of the ground, which is simply the walking surface of a room. Floors can be made from any material that can support the load of the house.

The kind of flooring you should choose is dependent on the section of the house you are

in. Always take into consideration the kinds of activities that will take place in a certain space. Kitchens require flooring that can withstand high temperatures, while bathrooms need moisture-friendly flooring. Rooms that will see children running around should not be too slippery to avoid injuries. The list goes on!





## KITCHEN AND DINING ROOM

The main concern for kitchens is the ability of the flooring to stand up to heat. If the kitchen has high traffic, the ability to withstand that is important too. We recommend a tile floor that has a bit of texture, and that is not too shiny. This prevents accidental slips and slides that could be detrimental to the cook's safety. Tiles can also be very easy to clean, in the light of accidental spills that might damage other types of flooring over time.

## THE LIVING ROOM

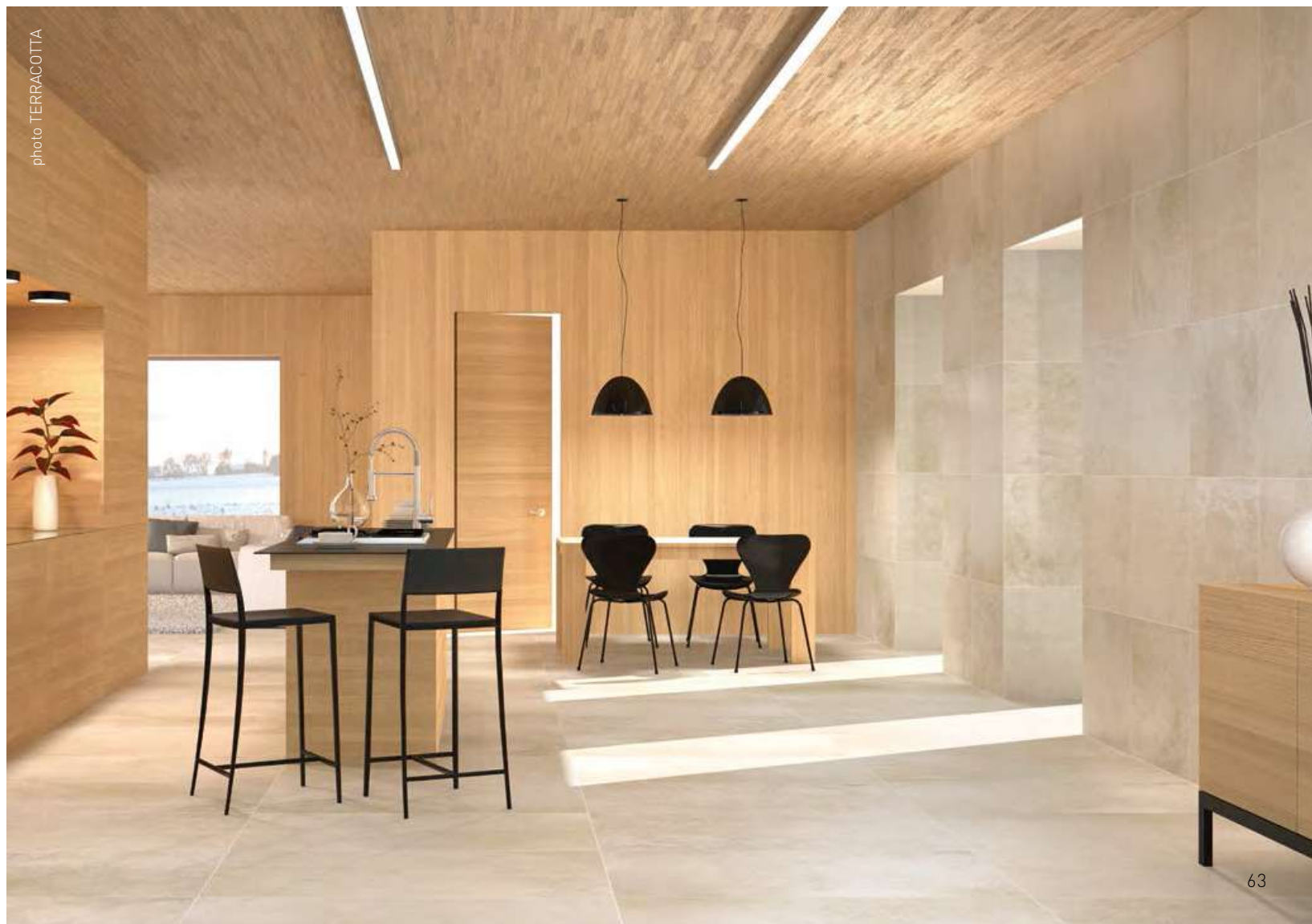
Where the living room is concerned, you can definitely get a bit imaginative, and try many different things. Match your floors with your walls to create a beautifully warm hue for the entire space, or choose a shade of grey that will bring about a smoky, but cosy feel. Ultimately, your choice of a floor should cohere with the kind of look you want for your living room. If your walls and furniture are predominantly monochrome with light hues, try something patterned for adding interesting features. ➤

We recommend a tile floor that has a bit of texture, and that is not too shiny. This prevents accidental slips and slides that could be detrimental to the cook's safety.

**OPPOSITE PAGE**  
We recommend a textured tile for the kitchen and dining room as it is not slippery and can withstand high heat.

**ABOVE**  
You can match the hues of your floors to your walls in your living room to create a look of harmony.

**RIGHT**  
If the rest of your floors are monochrome, you can accent certain places with fun patterns.





**OUTDOORS**

It rains a lot in Malaysia, so it's imperative to choose floors that are water-resistant for any area in the home that is not covered. The flooring must also be resistant to wind, and be packed tightly enough that weeds do not grow between each tile. This is why we recommend a hardy stone tile for outdoor areas. Stone adds a more natural feel as well, allowing the floor to harmonise with the ambient surroundings outside.

**BATHROOM**

The bathroom is a great favourite for many people. Marble, granite and limestone are popular choices for the bathroom. In a room exposed to so much moisture, these highly durable flooring options are perfect. We recommend a matte finish for your bathroom, which is not only stylish, but also slip resistant to facilitate safe movement over wet floors. You can also use wood floors for your bathroom, but do remember to make sure that they are properly sealed to avoid water rot.







**ABOVE**  
Coarse stone for  
the outdoors give  
a natural feel.

**BOTTOM LEFT**  
Seal wooden floors  
properly if you want to use  
them for your bathroom to  
prevent premature rotting.

**RIGHT**  
The high colour variation  
in wooden floors give  
them different tones  
under different lighting  
conditions.

We love wooden floors for the bedroom. The logic behind this choice is simple: wooden floors are warmer than other types of flooring.

## BEDROOM

We love wooden floors for the bedroom. The logic behind this choice is simple: wooden floors are warmer than other types of flooring. This is a very important thing to consider, as cold floors are very uncomfortable and can be an unwelcome jolt in the morning, particularly if you've had the air conditioner on throughout

the night. The bedroom is also a place with minimal traffic, so wooden floors can easily support the traffic flow. Due to the variation of tones one can choose from where wood is concerned, these floors are easily compatible with any kind of decor. They look great in any sort of lighting, from natural light to even blue-tinted lights. ▴



photo BRIAN J. CHEN









When solid hardwood floors are not an option, it's great to know that it's possible to use tiles that look and feel like real wood. With this set up, you can mix and match your options, connecting the dots through subtle, but clever use of colours that flow from one piece to another. Don't shy away from the ornate or intricate – celebrate the joys of these nyonya and art-deco inspired pieces!

- 1. Parador laminate, from Goodrich Global
- 2. Crosaide, from Terracotta Tiles
- 3. Skywood pine, from Guocera
- 4. Arezzo deco 1, from Guocera. ➤



Gone are the days of the square tile. These days, tiles come in various shapes, sizes, and designs, all speaking of customisation and personalised combinations for homes.

1. CZH003Y, from Terracotta Tiles
2. Tondo Blanco, from Niro Granite
3. San Martin Sole blue, from Guocera
4. Tondo Acero, from Niro Granite
5. Antico Colours, from Guocera. ➤









Feature walls and kitchen backsplashes are the perfect place to showcase designer tiles. Pick and choose your tiles wisely; some patterns, pretty as they are, tend towards making spaces feel cramped. If you're keen, try using individual pieces of your favourite patterns minimally, and break them up with plain tiles to provide some space. Size also matters; larger patterns, in particular, are great for adding flavour to smaller rooms without creating visual clutter.







1. A29W741DGV, Ethnic +1 Porcelain collection, from Kimgres
2. Sierra Aqua III, Ethnic 1.1 Marakkech Porcelain collection, from Kimgres
3. GEFf Luxe in black, from Goodrich Global
4. GEFf Luxe in white, from Goodrich Global
5. A29W771DGV, Ethnic +1 Porcelain collection, from Kimgres. ●



# FABRIC FEVER

Fabrics are prevalent in the home. Almost impossible to escape and dominant in furnishings from upholstery to accessories, fabrics bring a wealth of texture, lustre, and patterns to a space, opening many exciting doors in terms of interior design. Yet, choosing fabrics for a specific purpose can be a daunting task, one that requires the ability to look beyond what you want, to find what you both want, as well as need. And while it's perfectly fine to pick out some gorgeous pre-made curtains, or sheets, or such in the shops, there are times a touch of personalisation is called for. For those times, this is what you'll need to know.



photo GOODRICH

## COUCHES

Upholstery is a very big word! In general, it is used to describe the work of fitting furnishings with paddings, springs, webbing, and covers, be they fabric or leather. It's important to find a type of fabric that is both durable and suitably matched with the rest of your interior decor.

Fabrics for upholstery need to be comfortable for long hours spent reclining; after all, no one enjoys a scratchy couch. They also need to be easy to maintain, so you can keep them clean with minimal effort. Before you choose your fabrics, ask yourself these questions.

ABOVE  
Harlequin's Poetica collection is available from Goodrich Global





ABOVE  
The Aztec collection is  
available from Acacia  
Fabrics



RIGHT  
The Levande collection  
is available from  
Goodrich Global

### What style of design will this fabric fit into?

Fabrics play a large role in the look and feel of a room. Do opt for bright, vibrant colours if you're looking to introduce some liveliness into an otherwise drab room, and follow up with appropriate accessories. On the other hand, if your walls are covered in intricate wallpaper, consider using flat-toned, but textured fabrics to accent them, rather than compete with them. Balance is everything in life, and this holds true in interior design. Instead of overcrowding your home in an excess of colours and patterns, pick and choose those that would work well together without one overpowering the other. Also of note is the combination of small and large prints, maintaining the balance between both.

### Is this fabric going to be subjected to tough love?

Scratchy cats and playful kids – it's important to take these into consideration when choosing fabric for upholstery. If you own a feline friend who's particularly fond of scratching up your

prized possessions, you might want to give lightweight fabrics like silk, satin, taffeta, chiné and linen a go. Instead, opt for microfiber fabrics, or distressed leather that hides blemishes well. Despite their being durable, you'll want to avoid using tweed-textured fabrics and wool, as fur and stray hairs are easily caught between the fibres. Also consider avoiding chenille and velvet if your pet is a heavy shedder. Our recommendation: make sure you have an effective lint-roller.

### How easy to clean is this fabric?

If you have clumsy butterfingers and are prone to spilling, avoid finicky fabrics at all costs. This includes velvet and tapestry fabric, as both seem to attract crumbs. Microfibre fabrics are a good choice, as they are lint free and do not attract dust. And while engineered fabrics like viscose and polyester are durable enough for pets and kids, the latter is prone to oil stains, whether it is from skin, or spilled food. It is pertinent to note that one of the main causes of wear and tear in fabrics is the friction between dust and dirt on the

surface and people sitting down. In general, a weekly vacuuming ritual is recommended for upholstery maintenance. Fabrics like high-quality cotton and wool are resistant to soil, and the former can be spot-cleaned when necessary, making for simpler maintenance. Silks and linens, however, require more work when stained, and are not resistant to wear. As such, it is recommended that these fabrics are used only in formal sitting rooms frequented by adults. ➤

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## CURTAINS

When picking curtains, consider this: which room will they hang in? What height are they to hang from? Will the room be getting a lot of light? Should the curtains be of flat colours, or should they be used to incorporate textures and prints into the room? How will they hang, and what pleated effect would this fabric provide?

When in doubt, pick a colour – any colour that works well with the colour of your walls. Work backwards by incorporating your existing furniture into the imagery in your head, so that you see the full, complete picture.

### **Will this fabric withstand the test of sunlight?**

Curtains will see sunlight. That is an inevitable fact, and one equally important to note is this: that fabrics will fade when exposed to sunlight. Bright colours tend towards fading faster, so do take note of this if you're looking to put these curtains in rooms rich in light. If your aim is to keep your curtains as long as possible, opt for neutral tones, as these are often easiest to blend with other elements that make a room. In general, you'll want to avoid silk, which is easily damaged by the sun. Chintz, brocade and cotton canvas, however, have stronger thresholds for sunlight, and being heavier, will more effectively block sunlight on hot days if you're not planning on installing blackout curtains. Including an interlining layer between the actual fabric and the lining will also help to extend the life of your curtains. Also note that different types of curtain fabrics provide different levels of insulation against the warm and cold. Suede, velvet, tapestry and tweed are all examples of effective light-blocking, warmth-retaining fabrics.

RIGHT  
Harlequin's Poetica  
collection is available  
from Goodrich Global

NEXT PAGE  
The Charade collection  
is available from  
Acacia Fabrics



photo GOODRICH



### **How should I store my curtains when not in use?**

Folding is not always the solution where curtains are concerned! Different curtains made from different types of fabrics must be stored in different ways to preserve their longevity, as well as to keep them in perfect hanging shape. If your curtains are of linen, be certain to keep them away from acid, as this can cause the fabric to deteriorate and yellow with time. Store your curtains in dark, dry places, and make sure they're fully dry as you don't want them to musk up your storage. Use padded hangers with good support, avoiding those of flimsy metal make. Keeping your curtains hung even when not in use will make sure no unsightly wrinkles form on the fabric, whilst simultaneously ensuring they do not get out of shape. You'll want to keep the curtains covered beneath a muslin cloth to block out the dust, though they will still need cleaning every year or so. If space is an issue and you absolutely cannot afford to hang your unused curtains, roll them up instead, and store in a clean vacuum-packed bag with a dryer sheet to keep them fresh.

### **How will these curtains look against my walls?**

The colour of your walls, as well as the features upon them will determine the sort of window covering you should use. In general, you'll want to avoid over-cluttering your walls with patterns and shapes, so if your walls are covered in ornate wallpaper, choose simple curtains in equally unobtrusive designs. Curtains of linen, silk, faux silk and velvet are known to hang best, forming beautiful pleating that adds texture and lavishness to the overall look of your space. The way your fabric drapes will also depend on its texture. In general, stiffer fabrics like brocade will not drape as well as its more malleable counterparts like wool, crepe, voile, chiffon, and silk. Note also that certain fabrics such as organza and dupioni, despite being fairly lightweight, do not drape as well, being of stiffer weave. Additionally, you'll want to take note of your ceiling height in selecting curtains to best suit your room. To make rooms with low ceilings appear larger and more spacious, use simple curtains that run from floor to ceiling. Avoid large, overdone patterns and horizontal stripes, as these will crowd the room further. Instead, opt for vertical lines to give the illusion of height. ▴

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### **Should I go for sheer or thick fabric?**

First, take note of the amount of natural light you'll be getting in the room. Second, commit to a purpose for the room, and decide how much light you'll be needing, as well as how important light control will be. For the bedroom and bathroom in particular, where privacy is of utmost importance, opt for thicker curtains that provide the right amount of coverage. Tightly-woven cotton and velvet are just two good examples of fabrics that are appropriate for the bedroom. For better light control, opt for a combination of sheer and thick fabrics, incorporating the layers with the use of twin rods. Living and dining areas can do with plenty of natural sunlight, so if you enjoy the use of lace, go right for it. You can also use voile, taking advantage of its light and crisp texture to let the light in. In general, the rule of thumb to follow is to know precisely what purpose your curtains will serve. Then you can commit yourself to figuring out various configurations with which to incorporate your window coverings. And if hanging curtains are not really your style, feel free to go for roller blinds, or even a combination of blinds and curtains.

### **BEDDING AND ACCESSORIES**

#### **How will this fabric hold up with other designs and patterns?**

There's more to bedding than merely bedsheets, pillowcases, and quilt covers. When choosing fabrics for bedsheets and accessories, do take into account your bedroom's existing colour scheme and design. Choose fabrics that pair and play well with others, picking heavily patterned fabrics with care. Combine simple fabrics in flat tones, or work with neutrals, incorporating colours and patterns as you go.

#### **How comfortable is this fabric?**

It can be very tempting to buy fabric for your bedding based on just how pretty its design is, but do refrain from making any hasty decisions! While it is widely acknowledged that the thread count of your sheets is a good indicator of quality, do note that the quality of cotton used is also important in determining softness and comfort. Egyptian cotton, with its extra

It can be very tempting to buy fabric for your bedding based on just how pretty its design is, but do refrain from making any hasty decisions!



photo GOODRICH





photo GOODRICH



photo GOODRICH

It may be a hassle, but experts recommend changing and washing your sheets weekly to rid your bed of an unhealthy buildup of dust mites, dead skin cells, sweat, oils, and other unsavoury things.

OPPOSITE PAGE  
The Levande collection  
is available from  
Goodrich Global

ABOVE LEFT  
Harlequin's Poetica  
collection is available from  
Goodrich Global

long fibres, is widely regarded as being both comfortable and durable, whilst pima (or Supima) cotton is an ideal and more affordable choice. It's also important to note that different weave styles produce different textures. Sateen, for example, is a weave that produces lustrous, soft fabric, but is less durable than Percale, a weave that produces sturdier, crisper fabric.

#### **Will this fabric withstand frequent washing?**

It may be a hassle, but experts recommend changing and washing your sheets weekly to rid your bed of an unhealthy buildup of dust mites, dead skin cells, sweat, oils, and other unsavoury things. Many fabrics do not hold up well to frequent washing, however. In order to prolong the life of your sheets, check the cleaning instructions and follow them to

keep from ruining your sheets. Pick sturdy fabrics like cotton and linen, and check often for signs of fraying, staining, and fading, as this means it's time to replace your sheets.

#### **Will this fabric aggravate allergies?**

Ask any eczema or sinus sufferer and they will tell you that allergies are the bane of mankind. While many things, from air quality, to diet, to cleanliness routines all play roles in aggravating allergies, your choice of bedding can also contribute to just how soundly you sleep at night. Sheets-wise, you'll want to reach for pure-finish, chemical-free sheets of organic cotton grown without the use of pesticides. You can also try bamboo, microfibre, or silk, though the last may not hold too well to frequent laundering. ►









2

If you're unsure of how to proceed in choosing fabrics, always remember that it's possible to unify your choices through shared patterns or colours that flow from one piece to another. This will help you to create a look that coheres in the room, despite a variance in patterns and such.

1. Charmant collection, Estelle, from Acacia Fabrics
2. Blocks in Chalk, Neutral, Lime, Powder Blue and Coral, Melinki Two collection, Scion, from Goodrich Global
3. Lace in Lime and Neutral, Melinki Two collection, Scion, from Goodrich Global. ▴



1





Colour blocking is often employed in showcasing the best of retro furnishings, amidst geometric shapes and lined-up polka dots. Today, these styles are still very much in vogue for crisply-furnished homes in the mod aesthetic. They're also great for children's bedrooms or playrooms, providing just the right edge of vibrancy.

1. Kaleidoscope in bright multi, All About Me collection, Harlequin, from Goodrich Global
2. Abacus in navy, All About Me collection, Harlequin, from Goodrich Global
3. Mustique by Matthew Williamson at Osborne & Little, available from Janine. ➤













Some fabrics will do all the talking for you! Don't be afraid to upholster entire armchairs and couches with a detailed fabric if your room is lacking colour and texture. And while it's generally advisable to limit your colours so as to avoid visual clutter, working around a selected palette that makes use of different shades of the same colour allows for more. Do take note of what materials your fabrics will be paired with, however; wood in particular comes in various colours and textures, so you'll want to find one that complements, and is complemented by your selection of fabric.

1. Natural Barbade – Onyx, by Christian Lacroix for Designers Guild, available from Janine
2. Barbade - Malachite, by Christian Lacroix for Designers Guild, available from Janine
3. Aztec collection, Estelle, from Acacia Fabrics. ●







LEFT TO RIGHT  
The Enforcer and  
Chalet collections  
are available from  
Acacia Fabrics.

## COUNTERFEIT FABRICS - NOT ALL THAT GLITTERS IS GOLD

SHOP SMART AND LEARN HOW TO RECOGNISE COUNTERFEIT FABRICS.

Counterfeit fabrics manifest in stolen designs, copied from the popular collections of successful brands. These copies, in callously unethical attempts to garner their own success, are then passed off as genuine at the expense of the consumer, who later discovers the world of difference between the fakes and the genuine. It's a sad state of affairs indeed, and one that needs immediate addressing.

As a brand deeply conscious about the welfare of its customers, as well as that of the industry as a whole, Acacia invests heavily in quality and safety to ensure that their end-users' health and welfare are not compromised. Each batch of Acacia-produced fabric undergoes vigorous testing by

their partners at LABOTEX, an ISO 17025 accredited laboratory, thereby guaranteeing ultimate performance fabrics.

In a nutshell, ultimate performance fabrics are superior and excellent, attested to and guaranteed by lab results. They possess abrasion and durability at contract standard as well as colour fastness, are fire retardant, stain-resistant, anti-mildew, and are also easy to clean. Both the chemicals used in production, as well as the appropriated dosage, are safe for health. This guarantees quality and accountability to the good of consumers.

The same is not always true in counterfeit fabrics. In testing samples of counterfeit collections now in existence in the market,

LABOTEX would pass them for durability and wear resistance, piling, and water repelling qualities. However, the copies failed in terms of colour fastness and stain repelling qualities, which means transfer of colours may occur when the fabric comes into contact with clothing or handbags.

What's truly worrying, however, are the fakes' failures in terms of carcinogenic dyestuff and Oekotex 100. This essentially means that the copies in the market are unsafe for daily exposure to the human body. Failure to obtain a pass under the Oekotex 100 category points towards cancer-causing (carcinogenic) chemicals in fabric treatment and dye, which is a very notable concern for long-term health.

So what can we, as consumers, do to safeguard our choices? While it is true that credible brands place their users at the forefront, ensuring quality through rigorous testing and certifications, it's important to do ample research prior to purchasing. These questions must be asked: where is the fabric made? How was it made? What materials were used, and are the dyes safe for human contact? A credible producer will not only be able to answer all these questions satisfactorily; they will show you, in the strengths and sheer quality of their products.

And if an answer doesn't come? Then you'll know it's time to choose wiser. ●



YOU LOVE  
COUTURE



Immerse yourself in the textures of refined living with fine fabrics by Acacia. From the glamour of Avenue Montaigne to the allure of Fifth Avenue, Acacia brings contemporary artistry into your home. Every creation is a reflection of your discerning personality, crafted to surpass the highest European and American standards. A myriad of designs make our fabrics a versatile choice for chic curtains and upholstery. With Acacia, you indulge in couture fabric at its finest, luxuriously crafted to inspire contemporary Asian interiors.

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# BLIND DATE

Like curtains, your choice of blinds will affect your interior design. Appropriate selections will add to your decor, bringing out the best of your home. It's also important to make the right choice so as to keep your selected style from clashing with the rest of your interior. But how does one choose with all the variety available in the market these days? One could even have their blinds custom-made to suit the style of decor in the home. Don't worry - we've got your back.



In interior design, blinds add colour and texture to the styles of many ages, ranging from retro, to mid-modern, to minimalist contemporary. Different types of blinds, using different materials, will help you to achieve these looks. Beyond design, however, the materials used in making your blinds do serve a very important purpose: light filtering. With the use of different materials, you can easily control the amount of light that comes into your home. Here's what's available, and how they work.

## FABRIC

Fabric is often used for roller blinds, where a single sheet of fabric is rolled all the way up at the top when not in use. Also of fabric, Roman blinds are crafted with broad horizontal slats inside, and as such fold up in several layers. Both are excellent choices for adding colour and texture in the home, giving one the option of choosing from patterned or plain fabrics as desired. In terms of light control, fabric blinds can be fitted with blackouts, making them ideal for efficient

light-blocking. They take up less room than curtains do, allowing your home a cleaner, minimalistic look. However, do note that fabrics deteriorate quicker when in contact with light, and can pose a challenge when the time comes for cleaning.

Besides the aforementioned two, fabric can also be used to make pleated shades. A single sheet of fabric forms many even, horizontal pleats. Clever innovations have seen a rise in the use of twin-style pleated shades, where two styles of fabric, one sheer and the other solid, are combined so as to allow for better light control in a room. Many designs for vertical blinds formed of broad, vertical slats, also call for the use of fabric.







ABOVE  
Wooden blinds can come in a variety of colours to suit your decor.

## WOOD

Wooden blinds can be appealing in a room lacking any form of interest in terms of design. Because the material itself is often used in home fixtures, wooden blinds tend to fit better into design, almost as if they were a permanent part of the wall on which they sit. The material also adds warmth and natural beauty to a space with its wooden grain.

However, wooden blinds can be excessively heavy, and might not sit too well with larger windows that require more to cover, as they may be cumbersome to draw and lower. Dust also tends towards showing up more starkly against wood. In general, wooden slats form Venetian blinds with cords to pull the blinds up or down. Wood is also used to form blinds with slats that may be rotated such that light can pass through them, offering a great degree of control.

## ALUMINIUM

Seemingly synonymous to the coloured, gleaming Venetian blinds of the 90s, aluminium blinds are revered for their sturdiness, and their ability to withstand the test of time. Easy

to clean with a simple wipe down, aluminium can be used to form both vertical blinds, as well as horizontal blinds, allowing for versatility where design is concerned. These also come in a variety of colours to suit your interior decor while effectively blocking harsh sunlight from entering your home. Being moisture-resistant, they are perfect for both the kitchen and the bathroom. However, blinds made of aluminium tend towards being noisy, so do account for that, especially if you're going to be installing them in a baby's bedroom.

## PVC

PVC (or plastic) blinds are above all, easy to clean, making them an appropriate choice for convenience. Like their aluminium counterparts, PVC blinds often come in the Venetian style, or vertical style. With the material customisable so as to be either as thick or thin as you would like, PVC blinds can last about 15-20 years with proper care, making them an investment in their own right. When used in the rigid vertical style, PVC blinds offer privacy with a complete blackout, and do not warp with time.

## LEATHER


For the fashion-conscious and style-savvy, there can only be blinds lovingly crafted of leather. Like most other leather pieces, however, your leather blinds need care from time to time, and require a gentle wipe down every once in a while. Generally used for Venetian blinds, where each individual slat can be showcased for their colour and texture, leather blinds speak only of sophistication and style, and add an elegant edge to every room. Ideal for smaller portlights, windows, and patio doors, leather blinds should be treated with care, and should be kept away from places with moisture and oil. Save them for studies and living areas, and avoid the kitchen! ►









A close-up photograph of a green roller blind with a white leaf pattern. The blind is partially unrolled, revealing a white rope tieback. The background is a solid green color with a subtle texture. The white leaves are scattered across the green surface, some pointing upwards and some downwards. The rope is a thick, white, braided cord.

Blinds these days are customisable, from detailed cut-out designs, to style, to colour, to material. Choose colours, themes and materials to suit the overall vibe of your space. These cut-out blinds can be used over a secondary layer that provides bursts of colour that are visible through the holes. Otherwise, use on its own over a window to allow for peeking room, as well as for for shafts of light to enter the room.

- 1. Designer roller blinds with laser-cut design.**
- 2. Woven ball tieback.**
- 3. Wooden blinds' slats, all from Bilton Industrial Products. ●**



# A MATERIAL DEBATE

We know how hard it is to choose materials for the home. Even if you narrow it down to two basic Ts – tile and timber, there is still a lot to research before making the final decision. Don't worry! We are here to help you sieve through the chaff to find the diamond in the rough that will help complete your home.

## TIMBER

Essentially, timber is wood that has been milled into any form and usually comes in boards or beams. Once trees have been felled and cut into logs, the logs are processed into timber by way of being hewn, split or sawed.

Why are more and more people choosing timber for their homes? It is mainly because timber reduces the environmental footprint of a building. Wood is a renewable resource because trees can be replanted after they

have been felled for timber. Of course, there is something to be said for illegally-sourced timber and deforestation for lumber, so be sure to choose timber that is sustainably sourced and certified by authorities like the Forest Stewardship Council. With all this said, studies have proven that the timber industry uses less energy and causes less pollution than steel or concrete production.

Good timber is naturally free from as many imperfections as possible. Imperfections can come in the form of fungi,

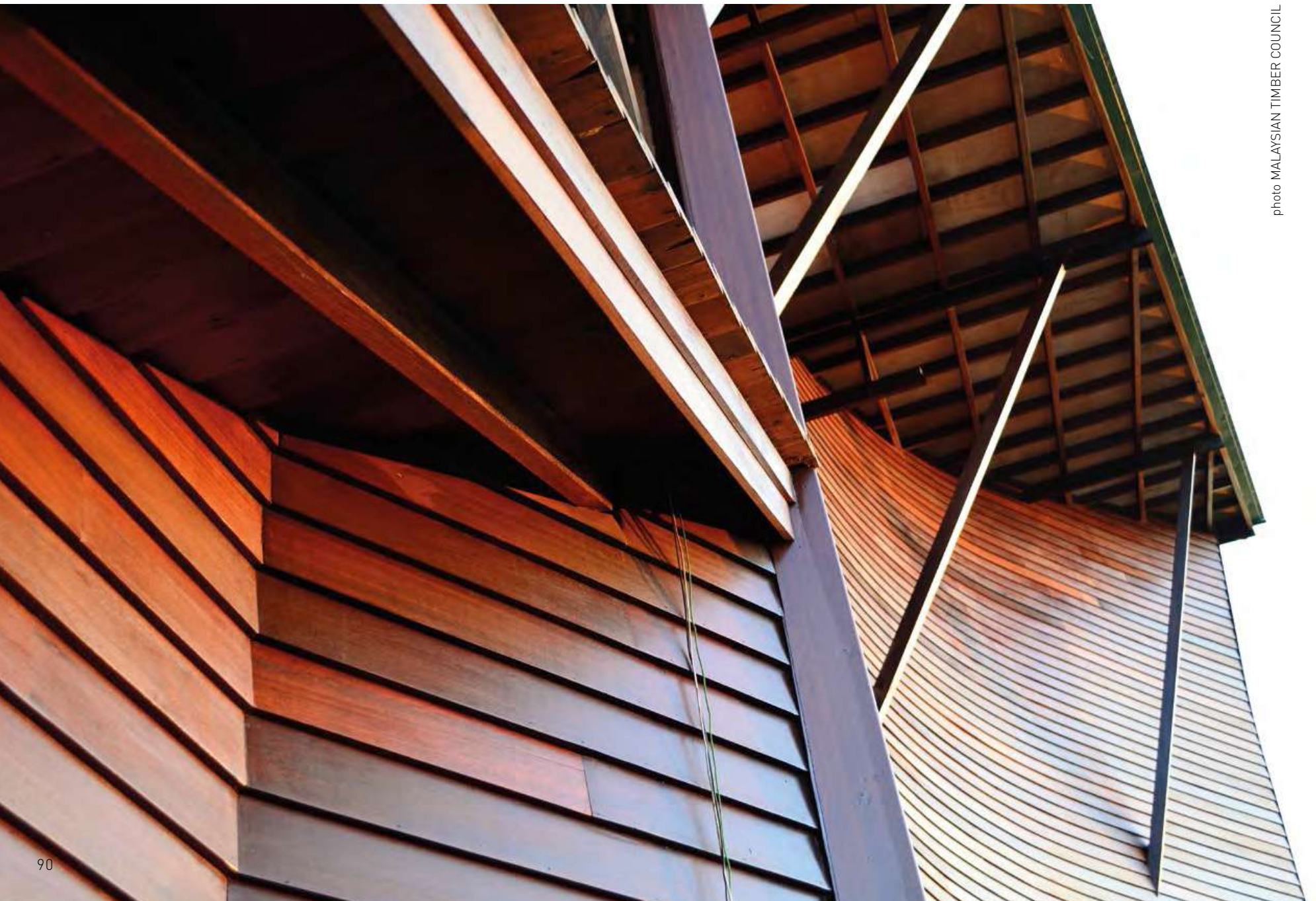


photo MALAYSIAN TIMBER COUNCIL



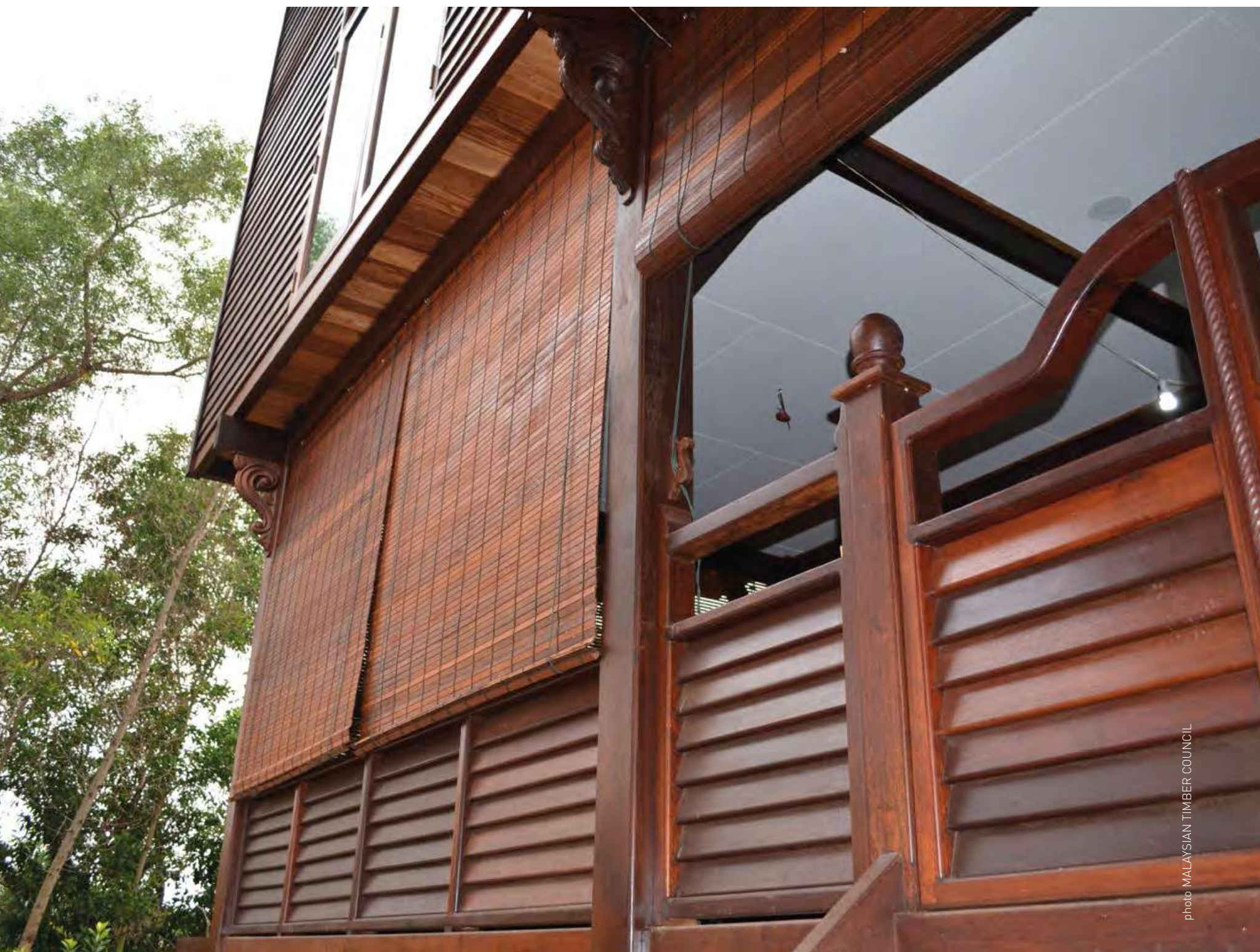


photo MALAYSIAN TIMBER COUNCIL

which causes staining and rotting. Do be mindful that the timber should not have come into contact with destructive insects like woodboring beetles, termites, carpenter ants and bees to prevent premature decay.

Warping in wood is a condition where there is a deviation from flatness in the pieces of timber. It happens when there is undue stress of forces on the timber along with uneven shrinkage. There are many

factors that can contribute to warping, and they include the species of the wood, air flow, sun exposure, temperature, and even the season during which the wood was cut.

Under optimal conditions, timber products can last a lifetime. All you need to remember is to treat your timber properly before you use them in any application and use naturally durable species of wood where available. ▴

OPPOSITE PAGE  
Under optimal conditions,  
timber can last a lifetime.

ABOVE  
To ensure the longevity of  
timber, adequate treating  
must be given before using  
them in any application.

Do be mindful that the timber should not have come into contact with destructive insects like woodboring beetles, termites, carpenter ants and bees to prevent premature decay.



TILE

Tiles are pieces of wear-resistant materials that cover roofs, floors, walls and other surfaces like the tops of tables and counters. Tiles are often made from ceramic, which is clay, or a mixture of clay with other materials that are then fired in a kiln. They are also glazed with a coating of liquid glass, which is baked onto the surface of the clay. Tile glaze comes in various colours, which offer infinite design possibilities.

Tiles have been used primarily across various cultures, from the Ishtar Gate of Babylon to the Royal Palace of Madrid in Spain. Tiles with patterns, or rather, tiles that can be used to make patterns emerged during the Victorian Era, where they were mass-produced by machine, and were fairly cheap. As a result, they lined the walls and floors of public buildings like churches, schools and hospitals.

Tiles are rated according to their hardness by the Porcelain Enamel Institute (PEI) in America to determine the expectations of wear throughout its lifetime. The ratings are as follows:

- a) **PEI Class 1** - for areas where there is no foot traffic, recommended for wall use.
- b) **PEI Class 2** – for areas with light traffic, recommended for wall and bathroom use.

- c) **PEI Class 3** – for areas with light to moderate traffic, recommended for countertops, walls and floors with light foot traffic.
- d) **PEI Class 4** – for areas with moderate to heavy traffic, recommended for all residential applications, medium commercial and light institutional use.
- e) **PEI Class 5** – for areas with heavy to extra heavy traffic, recommended for all residential and commercial applications and heavy institutional use.

Did you know that stones can also come in tile form? When choosing stone tiles, it is also imperative that you are familiar with the qualities of the stone you choose for each area of the home. Marble can be beautiful in the living-room, but its porous quality makes marble tiles unsuitable for the kitchen or the bathroom, especially if they are not properly sealed. On the other hand, slates are beautiful on floors but they must be completely honed to be smooth, or unsightly clefts will occur. ●

BELOW  
Tiles have countless design options and have been used across many cultures since time immemorial.

RIGHT  
Tiles are graded according to the traffic flow from PEI1 to PEI5. Whether they are suited for use on walls or floors is dependent on their ratings.



photo GUOCERA









# 31 WAYS TO CREATE A COLONIAL-INSPIRED HOME

In 1786, Francis Light built a fort on the island of Penang. Since then, the Portuguese, Dutch and British have played an important role in our history and in the independence of Malaya. They greatly impacted and influenced furnishing trends dating back to the old days. Here are 31 of our favourite designs that drew inspiration from the post-colonial era.



Be inspired by the pieces of colonial furniture and other decorative elements in the Cameron Highlands resort. Here, one can observe the elements that make up a colonial-inspired home in its full glory. This resort includes elements Malaysia is now renowned for, such as the (English-influenced) **classical caning furniture** and **western designs for upholstery**. Other subtle touches include the **type of blinds used, arrangements of photo frames and neutral themes in rooms**, down to the type and placement of plants.

\* Cameron Highlands resort is a member of Small Luxury Hotels of the World.





2

**Daybeds** have been in existence since the days of ancient Egypt and Rome. Inspired by these countries, the English came up with several versions they called their own.



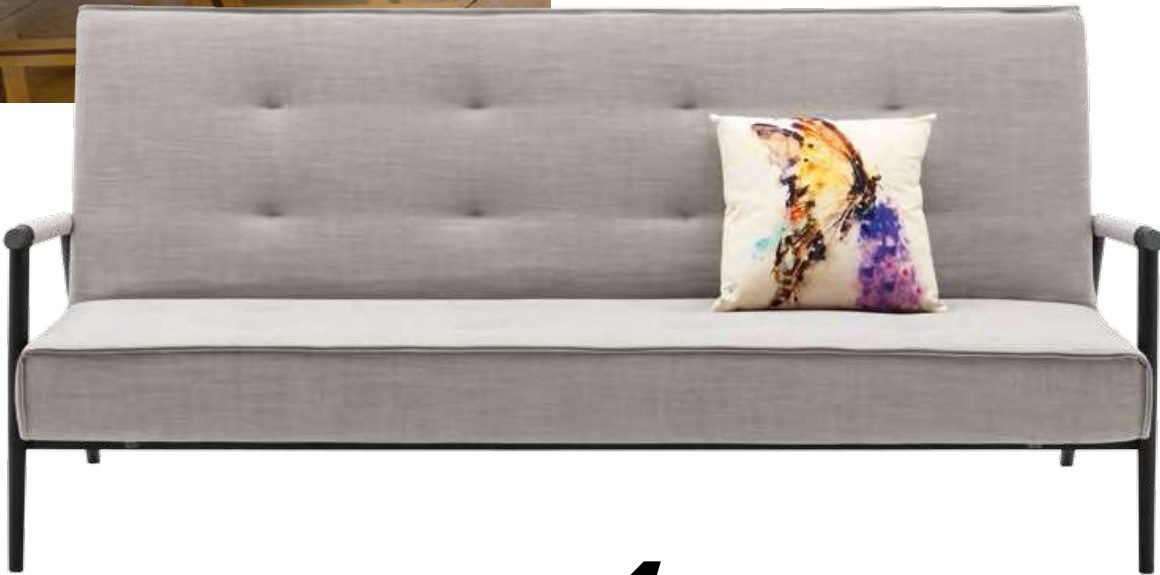
Porada's Scarlett brings us back to Cleopatra's days of luxuriating upon ornate daybeds with gently-sweeping fans.

Available from Studio 216.



The Kyoto sofa bed exudes style with its tufted padding.

Available from BoConcept.



3

Traditional British **bar carts** are used to serve and entertain guests with drinks. Pre colonial era, no one piece of furniture resembled the bar cart. Today, however, they are in grand supply. Walnut finished, this Spritz **side table** by Porada comes with a drawer with a cuoietto leather-lined bottom.

Available from Studio 216.

4



Light, simple and smoothly-varnished **two-seater cushioned sofas** are fashioned with **sleek curvy frames**. Designed in 1949 by Ole Wanscher for Carl Hansen & Son, hand-woven cane is used in making the seat of this Colonial Chair.

Available from Space Furniture. 





5

If incorporating curtains into your home is not “colonial enough,” opt for blinds. Pick from Roman, roller or venetian blinds.

The Motorised Roman Shade is available from Bilton.

Pair nature-inspired wallpapers with greenery like indoor palms or artificial bamboo plants to give your home a tropical look. Coordinate different shades of green with gold or beige. The colours work exceptionally well with cream coloured leather or canvas woven chairs. The featured wallpaper is a part of Matthew Williamson’s Samaya Collection, 2015.

Available from Janine.



6



7

The timeless designs of the **rocking chair**, the **flag halyard chair**, and the **high back chair** have undergone evolutions of sorts. The huge impact they have had has resulted in new, local versions.



Designed in 1947, the classic British Windsor Chair inspired Hans. J Wegner to create the wide and high-backed Peacock chair for PP Mobler.

Available from Space Furniture.



Although rocking chairs are known to be of American design, they are no doubt iconic, and have been reproduced by many cultures to cohere with local designs. Some versions reflect the fusion of two designs; the rocker and wicker chair. This Flag Halyard chair is a Hans. J Wegner design for PP Mobler. The Halyard weaving technique is also visible in local deck chairs made of colourful plastic or rattan.

Available from Space Furniture.



# 8

A **bar cabinet** can replace netted kitchen cabinets for **storing various foods, condiments, tableware and utensils**. Like old kitchen cabinets, the Polifemo provides a little room for peeking into the cabinet through the glass incorporated onto its patterned door.  
Available from Studio 216.



# 9



**Marble tops** are also used to reflect exclusivity in high-end furniture such as cabinets and tables. Like wood, the cold and smooth marble surface emphasises the unique patterns nature has to offer. The unique Maxwell table is a Massimo Castagna design for Acerbis.  
Available from Space Furniture.

Handy when you need extra space, the Script 60 is a multipurpose **side table** with a trendy **tinted-smoke glass top** and **wheels**. With two tiers available for your things, it holds books, beverages, and even snacks.  
Available from Studio 216.



# 10

# 11



The Colonial table perfectly captures a time where furnishing was simple and functional.  
Designed by Ole Wanscher for Carl Hansen & Son, the Colonial table is available from Space Furniture. [►](#)



When Arabesque-like **motifs** are displayed on the glass panel of a storage unit, you know colonial influence is in play. Similar to the innovations of homeowners who pasted Batik pieces onto the front of their cabinets for privacy and style, the Kvadro Q Storage unit, of T. Colzani design, uses Arabian Mashrabiya glass for its front doors.

Available from Studio 216.

*I2*



Furniture aside, decorations like **globes, monacles, brass telescopes, magnifying glasses, binoculars, leather bound books** and **wooden candle sticks** make favourable decorations for your study.

*I5*

Comfortable **tufted leather armchairs** remain a beloved English design. Closely resembling a Winchester chair, but boasting a clean-cut form sans curves, the CH419 Heritage Chair was designed in the 1930s by Frits Henningsen for Carl Hansen & Son.

Available from  
Space Furniture

*I4*



photo GOODRICH GLOBAL







Mahogany, teak, rosewood, solid ash, oak and walnut are some of the types of wood heavily favoured by the English. Often, **thick framed furniture with rounded edges are paired with white fabrics** to balance the heaviness of the material.

The Arena Sofa 224 from Porada is available from Studio 216.



Add a touch of American-inspired design into your colonial-style working space with this retro nickel-plated Kroby table lamp. It comes with a mouth-blown glass shade. Available from Ikea.



**I7**

A colonial-style home can also take on a refined touch of local design in the form of pewter, silverware or wood works. This smart-looking desk clock incorporates a traditional triangular "pucuk rebung" Batik motif.

Available from Royal Selangor's Gembira collection. ➤





# I8

Throughout the British colonial era, the study was considered a space of utmost importance. Own yours in style with the Elis, a swivelling office armchair from Porada. Its five feet and armrests offer the perfect balance and support for good **posture**.  
Available from Studio 216.



Apart from the nature-inspired Acanthus design in furniture, **scallop rimmed** (closest to **reeding** details) furniture in opaque glass garnered immense popularity among the English. This All Aglow eight light chandelier can be used in the study, bathroom, or dining area.  
Available from Barbara Barry.

# 20

The English are best known for their **timeless** designs. A bureau, escritorio or a writing desk with various compartments is imperative in the design of any study, and have been in use since the early colonial period. The Flavio desk from Porada includes various drawers and special compartments to store pencils, as well as a pull-out platform to place your iPads on.  
Available from Studio 216.

# I9

Add some gentle flair by incorporating this laced lamp shade with its stylish tripod legs. Its scroll foot is French-influenced, offering just the right amount of colonial to your space.  
Available from Ikea.



# 21





# 22

Luxurious and comfortable, **four-poster beds** are a permanent fixture in any five-star colonial-influenced hotel. It's a great way to dramatise your bedroom especially if you decide to up your amp by going for **barley-sugar twist, bulbous, fluting** or **reeding** details and a **finial** end to the pole. Soft-to-the-touch, **sheer, voile** fabric or mosquito netting helps to bring a comfortable and romantic atmosphere to your room. Pair them with a generous view of the garden outside. Further add to the look by incorporating white panel glass doors, if possible.

\* Cameron Highlands resort is a member of Small Luxury Hotels of the World.

Sideboards were not originally used for clothes, with large compartments rather than drawers. However, all this changed when a **sideboard chest of drawers** was introduced. The **Regent** in solid Canaletto Walnut comes with three drawers. Available from Studio 216.

# 23



# 24



Before vanity dressing tables were invented in the 17th century, ornate boxes were used to hold jars of makeup. ➤



During the colonisation, shutter-type windows and checkerboard floorings were widely popular. Moreover, pouffe chairs were commonly placed in the bathroom for clothes and accessories. All of these were paired with the extravagant detailing of a chandelier, shower heads, claw-footed bathtubs, trays and also shower brushes, making for a truly luxurious bathing experience.

# 25



photo EASTERN & ORIENTAL HOTEL, PENANG, THE CORNER SUITE

## TIMELINE

1. The Georgian era (1714 to 1837) was presided over by George I, II, III, IV and William IV (son of George III and the brother of George IV who took over from 1830 to 1837). In design, the aristocrats favoured fixtures based on the characteristics and colour schemes of a room. During this period, rococo styled furniture and woodworks were considered trendy. Sideboards, marble tops, drink cabinets, four poster beds and ball and claw foot furnishings were significant pieces, and are still seen in the homes of today. Hardwood such like mahogany were used in the stead of walnut.
2. The Regency era (1811 to 1820) saw George IV taking an interest in Egyptian furniture. Furniture popular during the Regency include Hieroglyphics, animal heads, eagles, metal paw feet furniture and more square and straight-cut designs. This is the era known for chaise lounges and gilded ornamentation.
3. The Victorian era (1837 to 1901) emphasises dramatic and dark, Gothic-influenced pieces with elaborate carvings, detailed ornamentation and exaggerated curves.
4. The Edwardian (1901 to 1914) era was the peak of luxury living. Light and airy furniture designs including bamboo and wicker furniture were favoured.

**These French cross-back** dining chairs are frequently seen in English **country homes**.  
The Ingolf chair is available from Ikea.



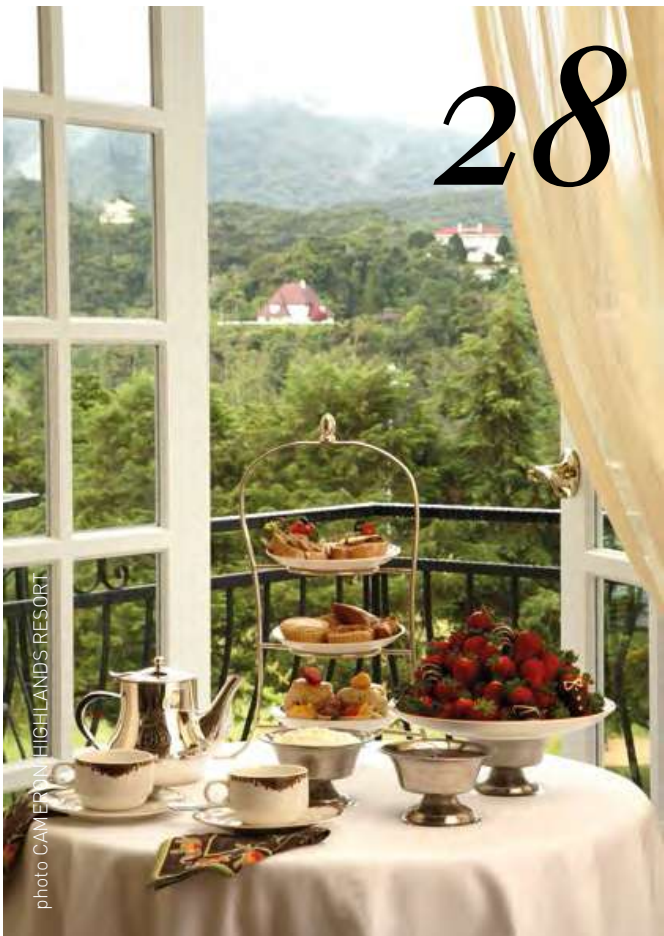
# 26



# 27

Show off some curves with the thin-framed Twist chair from Porada. Made with a solid Canaletta walnut frame, this colonial-inspired piece comes in two versions, with or without armrests.  
**Available from Studio 216.**





28

Eat out. Bring out the trays, plush cushions and table cloth or silverware, and add tiered food displays and proper fabric napkins.

\* Cameron Highlands resort is a member of Small Luxury Hotels of the World.



29

Tables, chairs, deck chairs and parasols; dress your outdoors with furnishings for afternoon tea.

photo EASTERN & ORIENTAL HOTEL, PENANG



If you're not one to drop hints about the theme of your home, use modern methods and get straight to the point by incorporating wallpaper or cushion covers depicting colonial-scenery in the background.

The Designers' Guild Royal Collection: Buckingham is available from Janine. ●



31

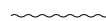
Sheer curtains in neutral or beige colours enhance a luxurious "holiday resort" ambience with their soft and light texture. For the bedroom, choose heavier patterns in blue and white, the colours reminiscent of porcelain and china pieces.

30



# DECORATING WITH FABRIC FURNITURE

Choosing fabric furniture with the right colour, pattern and material is essential to creating a beautiful home. Here's why fabric furnishings are great for the home.



## HOME COLLECTION

### Classicon 3-Seater Fabric Sofa

Usual Price: RM8,999 Now: RM5,843

The imported Classicon sofa features high density foam for ultimate comfort and is upholstered in an imported English-inspired floral motive which lights up any room. The frame of the Classicon 3-Seater Sofa is built with strong Red Meranti wood, for a sturdy base that is high quality and long lasting. Also available as a 1-seater at the price of RM3,596.



### Why fabric furniture?

Fabric furniture can be as chic and practical as leather furniture. Leather furnishings may be beautiful and classy, but they can also be expensive and slightly fussier to maintain. It may be visually arresting in rooms of minimalist design, but they provide a limited choice of colours and patterns. Fabrics on the other hand, come in a variety of colour, texture and patterns that enable you to infuse your room with multiple colours at a more affordable price. With these varieties available, it is essential for you to choose the right material for a longer-lasting fabric furniture.

### Choosing the right material

If you're looking for fabric furniture, go for something durable. Fabrics with a higher thread count are suitable for heavy wear furniture like sofas. If your sofa sees plenty of wear and tear, choose everlasting embroidered or fabrics with woven patterns instead of prints that fade over

time due to washing, sweat or moisture. Avoid using delicate fabrics such as silk if you have pets and children around. Instead, make use of the practicality of dark fabrics which helps to camouflage stains.

### Types of upholstery fabrics

Fabrics are divided into two sub-categories, natural and synthetic. Cotton, linen, wool, silk and rayon are softer and perfect for less-used furniture as they tend to fade under direct sunlight and are more susceptible to piling. Durable synthetic fabrics such as acrylic, polyester, nylon, olefin and polypropylene are designed for heavy wear purpose. These are fabrics with fibre strands that are treated with chemicals. Synthetic fabrics are resistant to fading and staining.

### Decorating your home with fabric

Bring fabric samples home. They should vary in design and colours. Decorate your room with

these samples by cutting them into squares and framing them. Also add tacked cloth swatches to your wall, above a desk, or place a potential sofa's fabric onto the floor. This helps you to gauge what looks good in the room. It also helps to prevent a clash of colours and patterns. Once you've decided what works and what doesn't, you can even keep your project as wall decorations!

Start your interior decorating project by choosing soft furnishings such as wallpaper and table runners before upholstering your sofas and armchairs. This gives you room to mix and match patterned and solid coloured upholstery. For example, a solid coloured sofa pairs well with geometric-shaped curtains to accentuate a stylish ambience. For smaller rooms, keep bold colours and floral patterns to a minimum to maintain a clean and simple feel.

To create a well-balanced room of patterns and colours, try some of these fabric furniture pieces from Harvey Norman;



#### HOME COLLECTION

##### Emerald 3+2 Seater Fabric Sofa

Usual Price: RM14,998 Now: 8,996

Create a classic English look with the skirted Emerald Fabric Sofa. It compliments with cushions which can be upholstered in similar colours. Also available as a 1-seater at RM2,396.



#### HOME COLLECTION

##### Lafe 3-Seater Fabric Sofa

Usual Price: RM6,599 Now: RM3,959

Lafe is a striking piece to have in your room. Its stylish fabric compliments the unique design of the sofa which opens up on either side like a bird's wing.



#### LIFESTYLE COLLECTION

##### Joshua 2-Seater with Chaise

Usual Price: RM6,599 Now: RM3,996

The contrast piping on Joshua sofa bolsters give a touch of class to your space. This comfortable sofa comes with a chaise that is perfect for relaxing. Also available as a 3+2 Seater at the price of RM7,476.

# Harvey Norman

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*Expert series  
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# AUBERGINE CATERING & EVENTS

*part 1 of 6*







“We have always enjoyed entertaining on a personal level, and love creating food and drinks from scratch. We don’t use too many processed ingredients.”





## PROFILE

The masterminds behind Aubergine Catering & Events are a dynamic duo, chefs and mixologists. Husband and wife David and Jessica Nathan met during a set-up and management stint at a local food and beverage outlet. Sharing an inherent fondness for cuisine and culinary adventures, the duo believes in originality and promote the artisanal movement by way of using very few processed ingredients. Pioneers in their own right, David and Jessica first set up Aubergine Catering in 2002. The aim: to fill the void for custom-made and styled catering in the market, long before the words bespoke and artisanal were buzz words for marketers. Their food and drink is fresh, beautiful, and above all, a feast of flavour.

## THE COLOUR: ORANGE

Gentle as a slowly-setting sun, yet evocative of fragrance, flavour, and warm sweetness, orange foods are rich in beta-carotene, a powerful antioxidant that neutralises free radicals. In the body, beta-carotene converts into Vitamin A, which gives you retinoic acid that acts against breast cancer in its earliest stages.

Almost happily sunny, these brilliantly-coloured foods are touted by experts as being important for night vision, and for preventing cognitive aging.

Pumpkin and carrot in particular contain lutein and zeaxanthin, yellow to red plant pigments that are said to prevent the forming of cataracts in the eyes. They are also found in cooked spinach.

With the ability to help rebuild collagen, foods from the orange group also protect your skin from damage caused by the sun. They are immensely useful for the health of the immune system, and are also rich in Vitamin C, also protecting against cardiovascular disease. ➤





## THE RECIPE: CLAM, CARROT, ORANGE AND SWEET POTATO SOUP

If it were possible to make a soup out of sunshine, this would most certainly be it. Bright and bold, spicy and tangy, rich and light in the mouth all at once, it's difficult to imagine there's anything better for cold, rainy days. An unorthodox combination – orange juice mixed into the rich, velvety sweetness of the soup, thickened with fragrant coconut milk. Yet it's one that works, perfectly highlighting a balance in flavours and tastes.

"It's a humble ingredient." David says of carrots. "But when well paired with other complimentary ingredients, it can really shine."

It's true. Carrots are so commonplace, so very accessible in any and every market, that many of us often forget the wealth

of flavour they impart in our cuisine. Health benefits aside, the humble carrot gives so much. It's versatile on its own, and can be used to add natural sweetness and depth of flavour to stocks, stews, soups, and even desserts.

"We also pickle them for bahn mi." David adds. "And sometimes we use them in cocktails when we're after a less fruity sweetness." And that's not all. The ingredient itself can be used in other ways, most notably in the progressive art of molecular gastronomy. "For a while, there were restaurants that used soy lecithin as a stabiliser to create 'carrot air', or foams."

Whenever possible, however, David advocates for 'real', organic carrots. "Try to get those that are twisted, 'ugly'." He says. "Your view of carrots won't ever be the same after you taste those."

Carrots are so commonplace, so very accessible in any and every market, that many of us often forget the wealth of flavour they impart in our cuisine.

### Ingredients

- 2 tbsp butter
- 1 tsp ground coriander
- ½ red onion, finely chopped
- 1 clove garlic, peeled and finely minced
- 1 leek, chopped
- 1 inch ginger root, finely chopped
- zest of an orange
- 100 g carrot, peeled and diced
- 100 g orange sweet potato, peeled and diced
- 100 g pear, peeled and diced
- 2 cups water
- 2 cups vegetable stock
- pinch of salt and pepper
- juice of two large oranges
- few stems fresh coriander
- 2 cups coconut milk

### To Serve

- clams
- chopped coriander
- truffle oil

### Method

1. Melt butter over medium heat in a large pot. Add ground coriander, onion, garlic, leek, and ginger. Cook for two minutes, until fragrant.
  2. Add orange zest and cook for another minute.
  3. Add carrots, sweet potato, and pear. Cook for another five minutes, stirring occasionally.
  4. Add water and stock. Season to taste with salt and pepper.
  5. Add orange juice and coriander stems. Cover, simmering for 20 to 25 minutes, until vegetables are fork tender.
  6. Puree soup until fine.
  7. Stir in coconut milk and check the seasoning, adding salt and pepper as necessary.
  8. Steam clams until they open completely.
  9. To serve: ladle soup into bowls. Garnish with clams, chopped coriander, and drizzle with truffle oil.
- SERVES 6 TO 8. ●**







# BAR CARTS AND TROLLEYS

When the United States' prohibition of spirits ended in the 1940's, well-stocked bar carts begin to emerge in the homes of the privileged. Bar carts and trolleys are parked stationary at strategic spots, or wheeled through a home during exclusive parties to serve guests with ice buckets and decanters of liquor, red wine and other alcoholic beverages. It comes in handy especially when you're entertaining a group of guests in your home. Its practicality also lies in stylish design. These are our favourite pieces, ranging from carts, cabinets, and trolleys to storage units that function just like a bar cart.



## SPRITZ

This unique bar cart is perfect for those seeking to impress their guests. The combination of modern contemporary geometric shapes and the smooth surface of the piece well become its old-fashioned wheelbarrow concept.

Available from Studio 216.



## BYGEL UTILITY CART

When upturned, the topmost compartment of the Bygel utility cart can be converted into a tray. The lower deck is designed to keep taller bottles and containers in place or without dropping out when the cart is pushed. By adding hooks to the side, you can carry accessories such as containers or cloth based on your needs.

Available from Ikea.

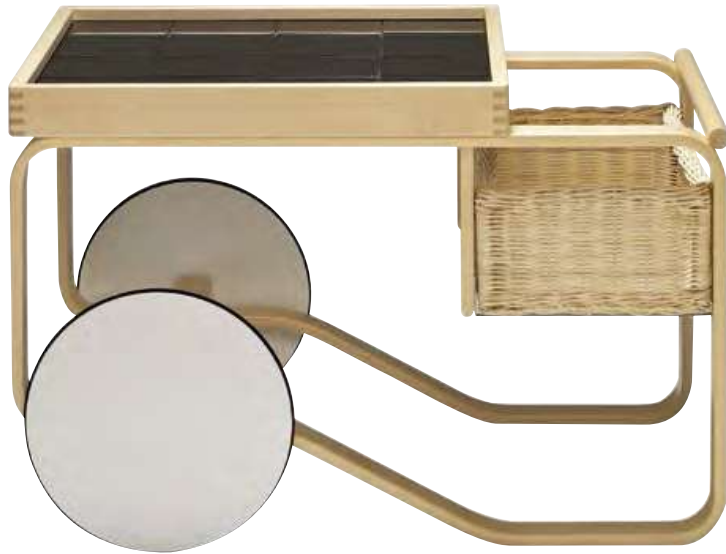




### ARTEK TEA TROLLEY 900

One trolley fits all. The ceramic tiled surface of Artek's Tea Trolley 900, available in black and white, is designed to hold both finger food and a pot of tea. A side rattan basket includes room for magazines, newspapers and plants. An Alvar Aalto design, this minimalist trolley comes in a curved lacquered birch cane frame and white wheels.

Available from Space Furniture.



### HALLE MOBILE CABINET

Think of paperwork in a filing cabinet. This is how you stay organised in keeping your bottled drinks and cups in their designated areas. Compact in design, the Halle mobile cabinet includes a filing drawer, serving as a bar cart with a table top for condiments and snacks.

Available from BoConcept.



### BATTISTA TROLLEY

Of Antonio Citterio and Oliver Low design, Kartell's Battista trolley is the work of edgy, translucent plastic, befitting the brand's tendency towards the material. The metal mechanism beneath the surface allows for you to fold the piece to save space, and to extend it during use. The trolley can be used as a bar, a serving cart, or even a table.

Available from Space Furniture. ➤







## VINDALSÖ

This double-decker piece doubles as a push cart or trolley, perfectly catering to your convenience. Having a picnic in the garden? This trolley has plenty of space, and should provide for all your food-serving needs so you'll only need one trip from kitchen to yard! Good for both indoors and outdoors, the trolley comes with rubber-covered wheels and a frame made of sturdy and lightweight aluminium.

Available from Ikea.



## STENSTORP KITCHEN TROLLEY

Albeit formally deemed a kitchen trolley, the Stenstorp trolley can be wheeled out of the kitchen and into the living room or dining area if necessary. Of solid oak, the trolley can be converted into a bar cart with the simple addition of two adjustable shelves underneath the worktop. They have grooves that keep bottles in place!

Available from Ikea.



## OSCAR

Sit tight! Oscar secures bottles of beverages onto the trolley to keep them becoming casualties of the "on-the-go" entertainment concept. Designed by Giovanna Azzarello, the chrome plated metal-framed trolley with Canaletta walnut shelves can double up as a side table.

Available from Studio 216.







## BARBOY MOBILE STORAGE UNIT

The Barboy came into existence in Switzerland 23 years after the Prohibition ended. If you're a fan of Verner Panton's works, you'll notice that this design for Verpan comes with the iconic wheels he so often mounts onto his designs. The mobile storage unit incorporates four cylindrical parts, two of which swing out to function as a table. Made from moulded wood, it can be used anywhere in your home, from the kitchen to the living or dining room, the study, or the bedroom.

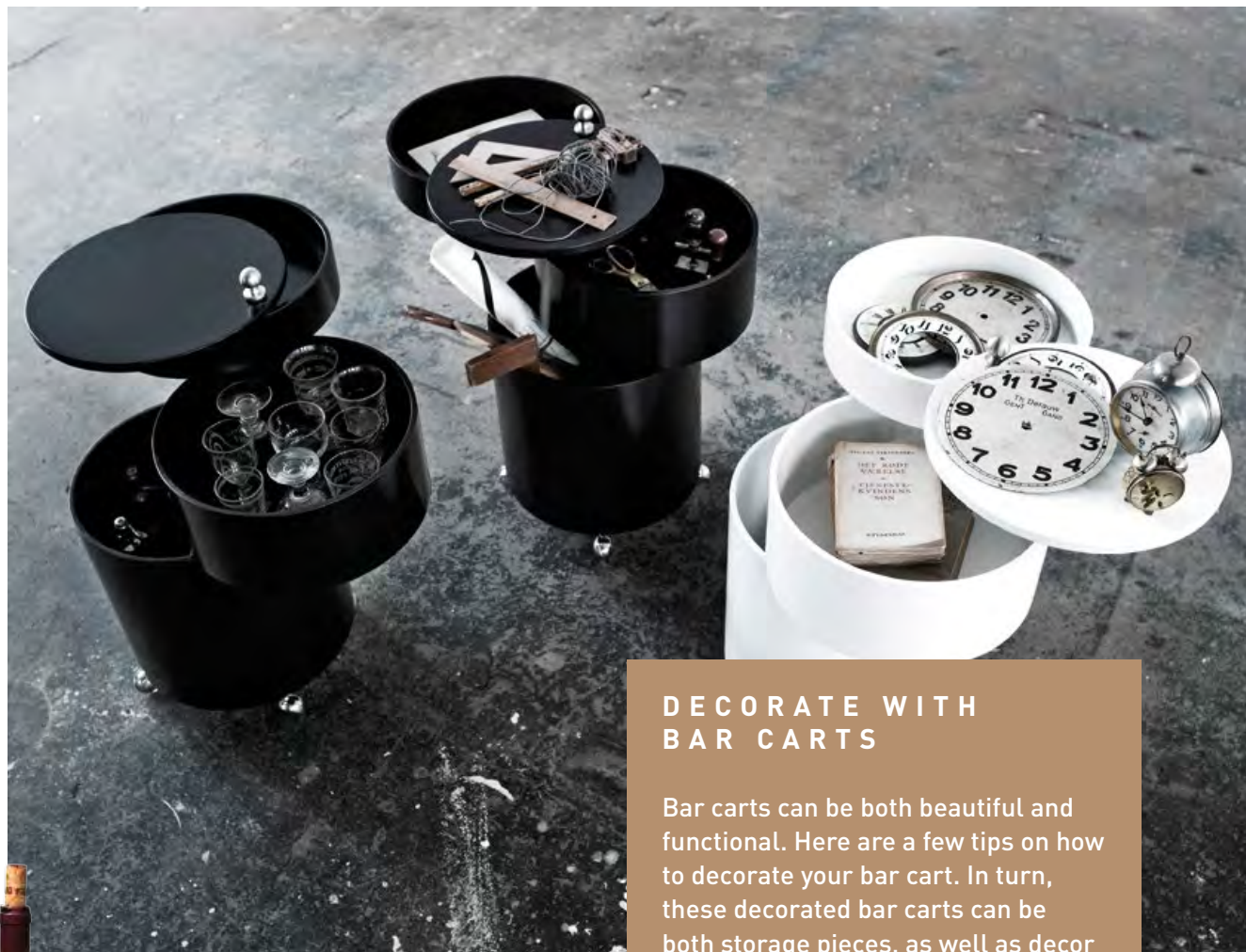
Available from Space Furniture.



## GRACILE CIRCLE SERVING TROLLEY

This stylish, triple-decked trolley highlights your choice of beverages and snacks. Serve your guests from its elegant, high-gloss black glass trays, and give your room some design flair with its circular sides.

Check for availability from Kare.



## DECORATE WITH BAR CARTS

Bar carts can be both beautiful and functional. Here are a few tips on how to decorate your bar cart. In turn, these decorated bar carts can be both storage pieces, as well as decor pieces when not in use.

1. If you have extra space on your triple-decker, fill in the space with small potted plants. A single flower makes a world of difference in creating a refreshing look in your room. The trick is to create or go by the theme set in a room. Clusters and patterns with colours and different materials work for a baby shower, but consider toning it down for an elegant party, by opting for translucent crystal and natural stone or wood patterns.
2. Bar carts can be a good conversation starter between party hosts and guests. Use beautiful bottles and crystal or glass decanters to show off the beverages you have. When a bar cart is left stationary or unattended, it should come fully equipped with beverage condiments on a separate tray, cloth, an ice bucket, and tongs. It is good to keep an eye on the bar cart from time-to-time to keep it continually well-stocked.
3. Bar carts are not only used during parties. You can use them in rooms like the study, or in designated spaces for your alcoholic beverages. ♦







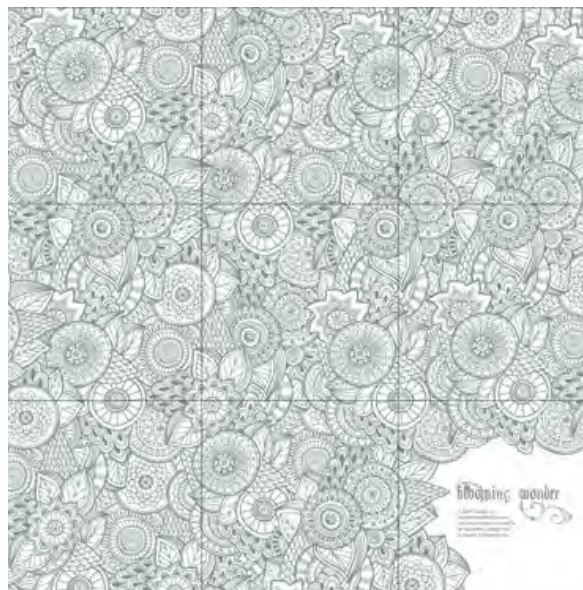
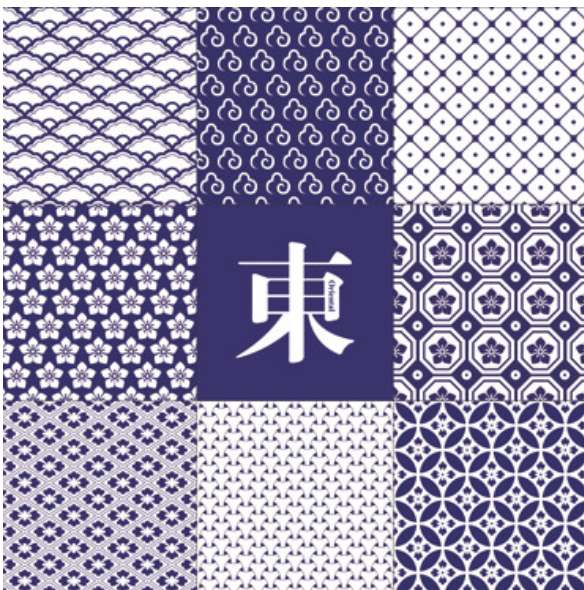
# BESPOKE CHEMISTRY: A REMIX OF ART AND PROGRESS

With Kimgres' recent exhibition, aptly themed Bespoke Chemistry: A Remix of Art and Progress, the works of these professional local designers and artists showcased a mixture of creativity and uniqueness.

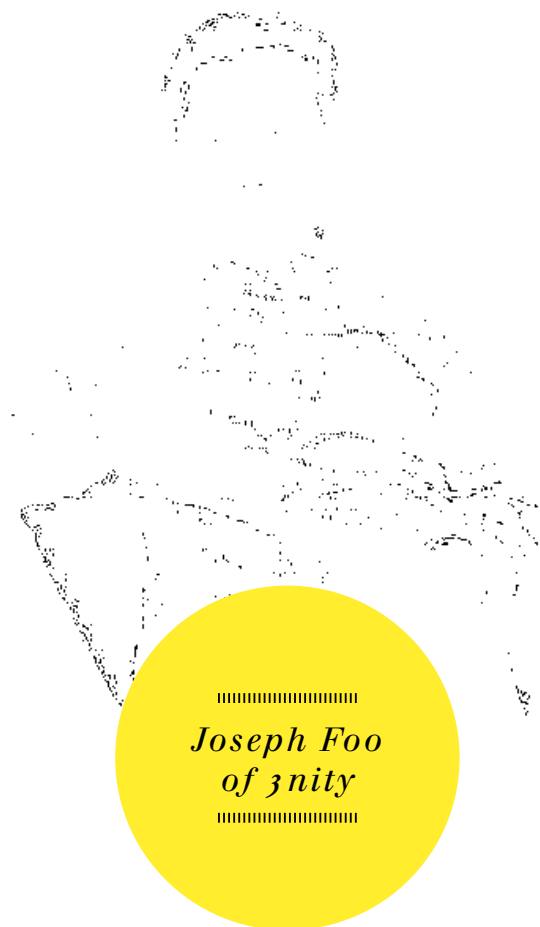
*(Part I)*

It is through this exhibition that Kimgres supports budding local talents. By providing a window of opportunity for these artists to have their works bought and sold as Kimgres tiles in the future, the brand offers bespoke tiles, meeting today's demands for both design and quality in one.

Using the latest Digital Inkjet printing technology and art, the bespoke service in Kimgres allows you to print memorable photographs, design a large mural for an entire wall, and create hipster graphic patterns for your floor, as well as other exclusive tile designs unique to the world. They are made to endure, and do not fade with time. Whether they are used as floor tiles or wall decorations, these are the stories behind both designers and artists' artworks.







Based in Petaling Jaya, Joseph established 3nity in 1996 with the main focus of developing brand identity and a design community. He would then go on to establish 3X in 2010 with a group of friends, award-winning strategic creative designers whose expertise ranged from arts and culture to design and publishing. Their goal: to make a difference in their community through creativity and design.

**H&D: What was it like to see your designs on tiles? Tell us about the experiences you've gained from this opportunity.**

**J:** It was 2012 when I first approached Kimgres to develop a series of art installations on tiles for an international design showcase, Man&God visual feast in London. The Islamic grid was developed and the series was well-received, especially in Europe. It has been featured in at least three to four other exhibitions since 2012. Personally, I feel that the series was developed at the right time, as the world is shrouded in misconceptions of Islam.

Perhaps it is through art and design that we can contribute to a better world.

**H&D: Describe how your designs are different from that of other artists. What inspires your designs?**

**J:** Our design approach seeks meaning beyond form and function. We believe that design is a tool to communicate, send a message or a story. Such intentions gave birth to art4soul and Man&God. What comes from the heart goes to the heart.

**H&D: If you had to pick, which tiles would you have installed in your home and where would you place them?**

**J:** I would place the Islamic grid in the garden or courtyard so we can all lie down to star gaze.

**H&D: Could you tell us how the partnership between Kimgres and 3nity came about?**

**J:** It all started based on our friendship and the collective motivation to make a difference in our respective industries. ▴



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT, [WWW.3NITYDESIGN.COM](http://WWW.3NITYDESIGN.COM)





**Kamwei Fong**  
of  
**Bo&Friends**

Kamwei Fong has been working in the creative industry (design, branding and advertising) for 15 years. Bo the goldfish was brought to life in 2003 when he began making simple sketches and drawings of goldfish. By 2010, he had started the Bo&Friends project, selling Bo ceramic sculptures and other merchandise.

**H&D: What was it like to see your designs on tiles? Tell us about the experiences you've gained from this opportunity.**

**K:** I've been exploring and experimenting with materials and mediums since the beginning of the Bo project; paper, ink, acrylic, canvas, wood, ceramic, clay, fabric, felting wool and many others. When I first saw Bo artworks being transferred onto porcelain tiles, I was really excited. I knew I had just found another playground for Bo.

**H&D: How did Kimgres approach you?**

**K:** The Marketing Manager of Kimgres, Mr. Yap, approached me about a year ago, before the exhibition took place. We were discussing the possibility of a few collaborations between Kimgres and Bo&Friends. After a few weeks, the first prototypes were produced, and the result was magnificent!

**H&D: Describe how your designs are different from those of other artists. What inspires your designs?**

**K:** I have two designs exhibited in the show. Of course, they are all inspired by Bo. The first set of tiles consist of eight repeated patterns that I extracted and compiled from many of the Bo artworks. Some of them are

Bo's fish scales and some others focus on Bo's other elements. The other set of tiles focuses more on one of my Bo paintings. I applied the image with tweaked colours and arranged them on nine pieces of tiles, and they look really fantastic!

**H&D: In your own words, could you describe how your design goes with the given theme, "Bespoke Chemistry: A Remix of Art and Progress?"**

**K:** With the possibilities created by Kimgres, the Bespoke Chemistry project has given me a strong platform, a big canvas for me to play with, and to have fun with my own creativity and imagination. Now I can customise tiles with Bo artworks for my fans and customers. Through the minimalist and peace-evoking character of Bo, my project aims to encourage and uplift people to become more optimistic about life.

**H&D: If you had to pick, which tiles would you have installed in your home and where would you place them?**

**K:** This is a difficult question for me. Since customisation is the big thing here, I can create any designs I want for Bo. If given the chance to create a "Bo Room," I would love to apply all the Bo tiles to fill up the wall and floor of the room, to overwhelm all visitors with Bo's ridiculous happiness.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT [WWW.HELLOBOANDFRIENDS.WORDPRESS.COM](http://WWW.HELLOBOANDFRIENDS.WORDPRESS.COM)





Sam Hepburn brings copywriting skills into her comics, having first started drawing cartoons as a child. After spending some time as a copywriter, the comic artist realised she was not able to express a part of herself in her work. With the encouragement of a couple of friends at work, she would come to pick up drawing again.

**H&D: What was it like to see your designs on tiles? Tell us about the experiences you’ve gained from this opportunity.**

**S:** I love a challenge. I love doing new things, so working with Kimgres was very interesting. I’d never thought of comics, cartoons or even photography on tiles. I tend to think of patterns instead. But the thought of my Dear Diary story being in someone’s home space felt very intimate and seemed to fit perfectly.

**H&D: Do your skills as a copywriter help with your comic creations? We’re also curious to know which comics you grew up with.**

**S:** Sometimes. I often start with scripts, and in a comic you have to keep them short. In copywriting it’s the same. We’re always shortening, editing, and tweaking for the most impact with the least words. I follow The Far Side, Bizarro, Dilbert, Zits, Cul de Sac, Calvin and Hobbes... but I wouldn’t say I’ve grown up just yet.

**H&D: How did Kimgres approach you?**

**S:** They were looking for a variety of different styles, and I received an invitation through a mutual friend.

**H&D: Describe how your designs are different from those of the other artists.**

**S:** There were two cartoonists who submitted work. I think both of us were different in the sense that our medium is naturally about telling a story, whereas others were open to interpretation or their messages may have taken more thinking to understand. It’s just the difference between cartoons and ‘art’.

**H&D: In your own words, could you describe how your design goes with the given theme, “Bespoke Chemistry: A Remix of Art and Progress?”**

**S:** I think the fact that Kimgres chose to include a cartoon story as a tile design shows that they are interested in pushing, or remixing the boundaries, when it comes to tile art.

**H&D: If you had to pick, which tiles would you have installed in your home and where would you place them?**

**S:** I’m going to give you a very diplomatic answer by saying all of them, in a very special room of their own. ➤



VISIT, [WWW.ETSY.COM/SHOP/HEPBURNCO](http://WWW.ETSY.COM/SHOP/HEPBURNCO)

“I think the fact that Kimgres chose to include a cartoon story as a tile design shows that they are interested in pushing, or remixing the boundaries, when it comes to tile art.”



Sam Hepburn of  
*HEPBURN Co.*







**Belinda Lim,  
Art Director of  
Skunkworks  
Communications**



She has been pushing pixels for a living for the last eight years. When Belinda is not using the computer for her work, she de-stresses by doodling whimsical or animal-related subjects.

**H&D: What was it like to see your designs on tiles? Tell us about the experiences you've gained from this opportunity.**

**B:** It was amazing! For one, I learnt how to create a tile in terms of the technical aspects, in order to make a seamless pattern which is not really an easy task when you're detailing with illustrations.

**H&D: How did Kimgres approach you?**

**B:** A friend of mine who works at Kimgres thought I would be a good fit for the show and the rest is history!

**H&D: Describe how your designs are different from those of the other artists.**

**B:** I think everyone is unique and I'm no different in that regard. You could say that

my designs are my own personal take on a particular subject matter.

**H&D: Did you have pets in your childhood? Could you tell us about them? Do you have any pets now?**

**B:** I grew up in Taiping, and the house I lived in had a big compound where my family would keep all types of pets. We had a pond with lots of fishes, always had dogs or cats and at one point we even had an aviary. My dad was even successful in breeding about five generations of Java sparrows! Now, I have a poodle named Ebi and a rescued cat with a crooked tail named Neko.

**H&D: In your own words, could you describe how your design goes with the given theme, "Bespoke Chemistry: A Remix of Art and Progress?"**

**B:** I think Art and Progress feed in to each other, challenging what could be and what can be done. In the same way, I set out

to create a set of tiles that could replace wallpaper. I've always liked an interior with whimsical wallpaper, but with Malaysia's humid weather, it can be costly to do up, and is still prone to damage.

**H&D: If you had to pick, which tiles would you have installed in your home and where would you place them?**

**B:** I would place a tile from my own collection in a nook, a cosy corner where I can hang out with my pets or read. It would have to be either Becky or Becky 2, which are the doodles of our family Shih Tzu who has passed on. Having her face tiled over a feature wall would be great fun for me. ●

"I think Art and Progress feed in to each other, challenging what could be and what can be done."



REFRESH AND  
RENEW YOUR HOME  
WITH HOMEDEC!

IT'S TIME TO GET INSPIRED WITH ALL  
THE EXHIBITS HOMEDEC HAS TO OFFER!



ABOVE  
The show houses at  
HOMEDec will give visitors  
a feel of what exhibited  
items will look like when  
they come together in  
the home.

BELOW  
The exhibition offers a  
wide variety of choices  
with which to furnish and  
improve your home.

RIGHT  
Popular with the masses,  
HOMEDec draws vast  
crowds every time.



HOMEDec presents an opportunity to furnish your home with new and innovative solutions. The event will be held at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre (KLCC) from the 22nd to the 25th of October, and from the 29th of October to the 1st of November.

This HOMEDec stretches out over two parts. The first part, themed Design + Renovate, will see visitors treated to goods and services that can be used in any renovation works they might undertake. It follows

thereafter with Furnish + Decorate, where visitors will find everything to do with enhancing the interiors of their homes.

A large part of HOMEDec's attraction lies in its interactive nature. Thanks to the Showhome feature, visitors to HOMEDec can walk through kitchens, bathrooms or even bedrooms that are carefully curated by leading and emerging designers, drawing inspiration for their own homes. Join in the walkthroughs to fully visualise and understand how

certain elements of design come together in real life. Centered around building for family and the emotions of design, this HOMEDec touts *Aged Care Living and Design*. In line with this theme, the HOMEDec Showhome will be utilised in displaying designs that are suited towards the care of elderly family members and those with special needs. In doing so, the organisers hope to show visitors that maximum comfort can be achieved for all family members, young and old alike. ●

HOMEDec WILL ALSO HAPPEN IN PENANG FROM  
THE 2ND TO THE 4TH OF OCTOBER, AT THE SPICE ARENA.










# LESS IS MORE

Thanks to sleek structures which hide almost everything, this home is always clutter-free and stylish.

<b>HOME</b> Five-room flat	<b>SIZE</b> 1,010sqf	<b>WHO</b> A couple in their late 30s
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**LEFT**  
As seen from the entrance foyer, the flat's design is understated, with simple details and a neutral colour palette. 





Only a wall of full-height built-in storage cabinets and a large island counter come in view when you enter this home – what looks like an upscale boutique hotel’s lobby is actually the living room of homeowners Melvin Kwek and Leong Wai Fun’s five-room flat. The space is uncluttered, with a canvas of neutral tones made up of ivory and deep grey tiles, light oak laminate from Lamitak, black granite and dark quartz. In fact, the only piece of loose furniture in the living area is a two-seater leather sofa. The couple also saw no need for a dining table and chairs. “We’re very casual; we just eat in the living room or even at the study desk, sometimes,” laughs Wai Fun. The couple didn’t

have a distinct design idea in mind, she shares, but they just wanted something “really calm”.

Architect and designer Stephen Goh of Metaphor Studio gave them “a lot of open, unobstructed space”, ensuring that the full-height windows were not blocked to maximise the amount of natural light entering the flat. “Everything – including appliances – is tucked away to keep the design clean,” he says.

Concealed behind the laminate-finished door panels are cooking appliances and storage areas, as well as the corridor leading to the private areas, and a study desk. Stephen added a platform finished with dark quartz tiles to separate the private area from the common one. Not only does this platform ▶





LEFT  
Bridging the private and public areas, a platform finished in quartz tiles – cut to replicate the effect of timber strips – also conceals unsightly electrical ducting and plumbing.

RIGHT  
Next to the large island counter is the open-concept convertible study area, with glass panels that slide out of a concealed compartment for privacy. The desk can be hidden using folding partitions.

BOTTOM, LEFT  
The view from the corridor shows slabs of textured, rustic quartz on the other wall of the living area, which complements the space's smooth, polished finishes.

BOTTOM, RIGHT  
The main elements of the living area – the raised floor, island counter and feature wall that spans almost the entire width of the flat – have consistent linear profiles and details.





LEFT  
Behind a pivot door  
that lies flushed  
with the feature  
wall is the corridor  
that leads to the  
common bathroom  
and master suite.  
The parquet  
flooring was  
stained to achieve a  
darker wenge tone.



R I G H T  
The bay window  
in the master  
bedroom was  
turned into a  
platform daybed  
with storage space  
underneath.

B E L O W  
A glass panel,  
in place of a wall,  
separates the  
sleeping area  
from the walk-in  
wardrobe in the  
master bedroom,  
allowing more light  
into both spaces.



give height to and zone the space, it also houses unsightly service pipes, such as the air-con ducting and washing machine plumbing. On the raised floor area sits the island counter, which has been fitted with pull-out panels that can extend the work surface. The island also functions as a convenient “quick-dine station” for the couple.

The walls of one bedroom were demolished to make way for an open-concept convertible study for two, with sliding glass panels that disappear into the feature wall. The other two bedrooms were combined to become a larger master bedroom with a walk-in wardrobe that’s accessible through the hidden corridor.

Through smart space planning, and a concerted effort to create a calm mien, this home looks nothing like a standard flat. The apartment’s design also makes it really easy to maintain – the couple have been living here for five years, and it still looks brand new! ◆



RIGHT  
Sam had wanted  
a feature wall  
made up of one-  
and five-cent coins,  
but chose a tiled  
feature instead,  
after discussing  
the idea with his  
interior designer. ➤







# NOT TOO SMALL FOR STYLE

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The shoebox size of this newly built flat doesn't deter it from having loads of personality and character.

HOME Three-room flat	SIZE 600sqf	WHO A self-employed bachelor
-------------------------	----------------	---------------------------------







#### RIGHT

The budding stargazer and birdwatcher's prized telescope faces out towards the greenery that stretches for miles from the home.

#### BOTTOM

With plenty of space in his large balcony, Sam dressed it up with potted plants and wall-mounted planters. He also overlaid the original white tiles with wood-look ones for an outdoor feel.

#### OPPOSITE

Statement pieces in different styles, such as the Chesterfield-style armchair, industrial-style dining chairs, and a leopard sculpture under the dining table, dress up this home. The clock hints at the homeowner's passion for cooking.



You'd think it would be near impossible to dress up a flat as small as Sam Tan's 600sqf home without some serious restructuring. But the self-employed homeowner managed to bring plenty of style into his space without removing a single wall.

With help from Thomas Tham from White Corporate Living and some statement pieces of furniture, Sam turned his home into a space that looks nothing like a regular flat.

One of the things he did was to switch up the flat's finishes for richer, textured surfaces. For instance, he overlaid the original white ceramic tiles that made up the bulk of the home's flooring with wood-look, vinyl flooring, and replaced existing plain cabinetry surfaces with patterned laminate.

Thomas suggested adding a white, red and black tiled wall as the dominant visual feature in the living area. The feature wall stands out against a backdrop of concrete-screed and grey painted walls, bringing a lively pop of colour to the space.

Because of space constraints, Sam requested only some minor works to be done to the home, including building shallow cabinets at the entrance of the home for storage. Any wider, and the walkway might have been a little too tight for comfort! Thomas also designed bench seating for the dining area, which extends into the living area to become the TV console. ▶



R I G H T  
Sam found  
images and  
phrases  
he liked on  
Pinterest and  
had them  
printed on  
customised  
blinds for each  
room.

B O T T O M  
Sam's bedroom  
was kept  
simple, save for  
the customised  
blinds and  
the textured  
laminates of  
his built-in  
wardrobe.



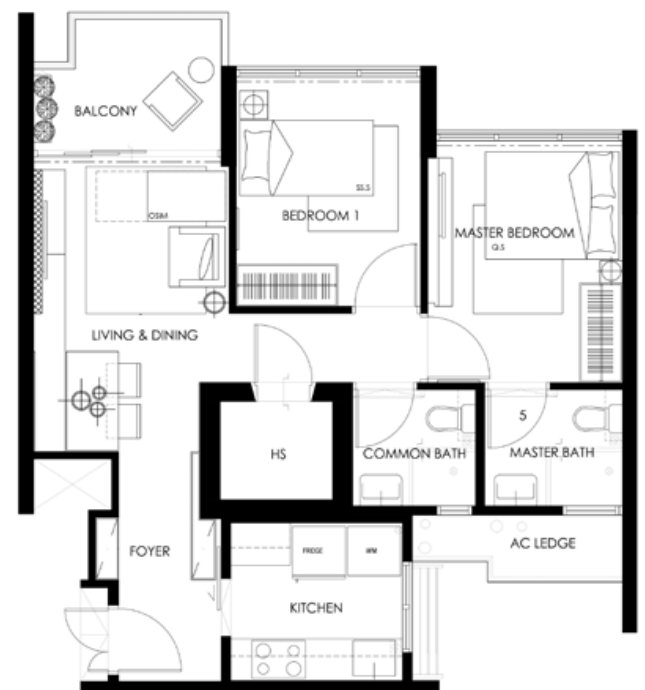




LEFT  
The cyan and yellow  
bedroom doors help  
to visually brighten  
up the narrow  
corridor.

With little work done to his home, Sam spent just RM90,000 on renovation, which gave him the opportunity to splurge on furnishings. He purchased his bronze pendant lamps from Lumiere, while the rest of his furnishings were from Marquis. His Lilliputian living room has just enough room for a lone leather Chesterfield-style armchair, two round side tables and an Osim massage chair, but what he is most proud of is the glittering leopard sculpture caged within the base of the customised dining table. "I was hoping that the light from the lamps would reflect off the leopard's glittery back," he points out sheepishly, "it doesn't really work that way, but it does bring a unique look to my home!" ●

## FLOOR PLAN











# FREE AND EASY

This pre-war conserved flat now has a totally open layout – even its private areas have flexible partitions to keep it as airy as possible!

**HOME**  
Former public  
housing walk-up  
flat

**SIZE**  
1,010sqf

**WHO**  
A couple in  
their 30s

**LEFT**  
The homeowner, an art lover and musician, has decorated his spacious flat with a colourful mix of furniture and decor, such as the vintage teak console from Journey East and storage boxes from a flea market in Mumbai. ▶



RIGHT  
A row of  
framed prints  
of watercolour  
paintings by  
French artist  
Alexandra  
Compain Tissier  
gives the home's  
entrance area a  
gallery-like feel.

BELOW, LEFT  
The wooden floor  
extends into the  
balcony, which has  
a view of the idyllic  
neighbourhood.

BELOW,  
RIGHT  
A bar cart from  
Crate & Barrel in  
a corner next to  
the air well helps  
keep entertaining  
essentials tidy and  
easily accessible.







The owner of this cosy pre-war conserved apartment rented it for six years before eventually purchasing it. "Before buying, I viewed many other units in the neighbourhood, and decided that mine was still the best!" laughs the homeowner. He likes Tiong Bahru for its community spirit, vibrancy and charm. The flats here were built in the 1930s by the colonial government body, the Singapore Improvement Trust, as public housing. The unique Art Moderne-style architecture sets them apart from later HDB estates that have a more utilitarian, cookie-cutter appearance. This apartment is in one of the blocks that was privatised in the 1960s.

Upon acquiring the flat, the homeowner engaged architect and designer Yann Follain of WY-TO to design it to suit his requirements. He wanted a big living area that would be ideal for entertaining and could accommodate a grand piano, a centrally located kitchen, a guest room and a master bedroom that wouldn't be disconnected from the rest of the flat.

The unit's layout is long and narrow, so Yann reconfigured the space to make the most of its three sources of natural light – the balcony, the light well near the dining area, and the back door. ▶



**A B O V E**  
As the homeowner likes cooking and entertains often, he wanted the kitchen to be in the centre of the home. The dining table was actually a display console in a British India clothing store and not for sale, but he managed to buy it from the shop.







An eye-catching painting by French artist Agathe de Baillencourt creates a focal point in the living room, while a handcrafted wenge chair – by the same artist – is paired with the Moroso Tropicalia chair designed by Patricia Urquiola in the balcony. ➤







LEFT  
A pivoted panel in the corridor leading to the guest room at the back of the flat allows for flexibility in configuring the bathroom. The partition can either close up the WC and shower area, separating the wash area and corridor, or turn the corridor area into part of a larger bathroom.





This also ensured better air circulation, keeping the home breezy. “Now that the place is well-ventilated, there is no need for air-conditioning,” the homeowner says.

Yann also designed all the partitions to be flexible, so the space can be configured differently when needed. The master bedroom has two doors – one next to the kitchen and the other in the corridor – that enable the room to be open or closed off for privacy. Another pivoted panel allows the wet and dry areas of the bathroom to be used by different users at the same time – this was done by locating the vanity in the corridor, outside the wet area. The panel can also close off the whole corridor, for a bigger bathroom.

“As I travel a lot, I’ve accumulated many things, including paintings and sculptures, from places such as the US, Europe, India, China, Australia and Japan,” says the homeowner, on his furnishings. The flat’s wide-ranging mix of furniture and accessories, as well as modern art, complement the contemporary built-in fixtures that Yann designed. ●



**TOP LEFT**  
The Louis XV-style armchair in the minimally furnished master bedroom was custom-made in Indonesia, and upholstered with fabric from Bode.

**LEFT**  
The master bedroom is just behind the kitchen, but can be closed off with a concealed pocket door.









# DARING DESIGNS

Offbeat customised furniture pieces are the talking points of this rustic-industrial home.

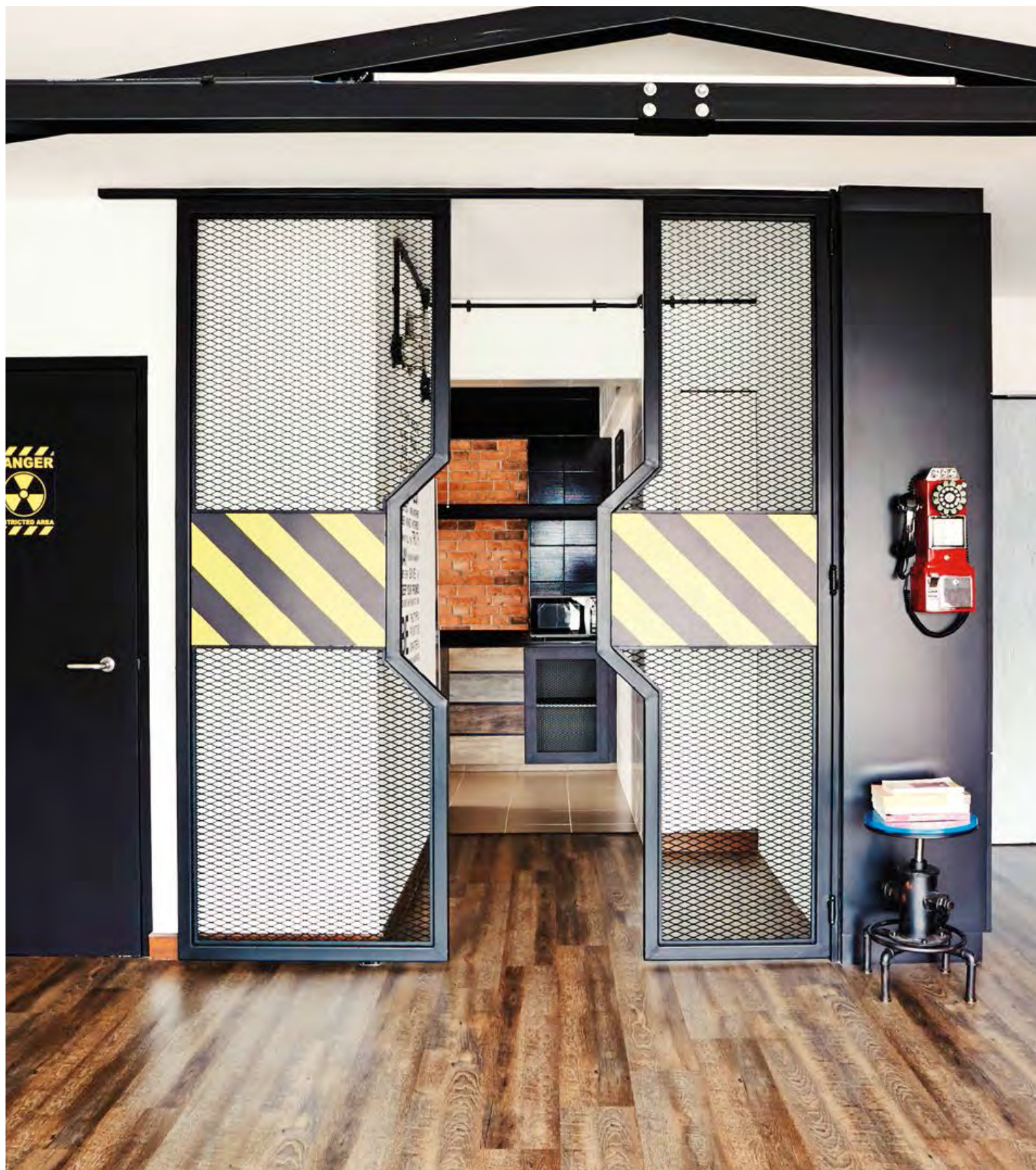
HOME Five-room flat	SIZE 1,200sqf	WHO A couple in their late 20s and early 30s
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LEFT  
This home features a mix of metal elements, including chains and drain covers, that are used to make up the display shelves in the living room. ➤









RIGHT  
Kelvin took inspiration from space shuttles and apocalyptic films to design the kitchen doors. A working reproduction-vintage payphone, from e-commerce site Amazon, is mounted on the wall.

(OPPOSITE)  
TOP  
Metal beams are used to bring attention to the ceiling, and create a semblance of a pitched roof.

BOTTOM,  
FROM LEFT  
Fitted with a door and an internal shelf, the oil barrel was upcycled into a TV console. Covering the feature wall of the living room is wallpaper that imitates the look of distressed wood. Instead of a predictable brick-like feature wall in the living area, the couple installed a brick-like kitchen backsplash.

You may enjoy the panoramic view from the top floor of this block, but a more interesting sight lies behind one of its units' doors.

Home to a young married couple, the rustic industrial-style apartment boasts eccentric pieces that replace run-of-the-mill furniture. From the oil barrel TV console to the spaceship door-inspired kitchen entrance, every custom-made piece has an artistic edge. They were ▶





ABOVE  
 "I like things to be a bit more asymmetrical," says Kelvin of the pipe cabinet handles' random configuration. Cushion from Taylor B.

created by interior designer Kelvin Teo from Space Sense.

The aim was "to not make it look like a flat", he says. Taking cues from houses with pitched roofs, he fixed metal beams to the ceiling of this home's living room. A mix of materials, such as wire mesh, metal chains, unpolished pipes and drain covers, was incorporated into the abode. He also used miniature pulley systems to suspend lamps.

A recycled oil barrel also replaces a traditional TV console in the living area. "We cut it to the correct size, then modified it by fixing a shelf inside, and adding a door," he explains.

Another major focal point in the common area is the kitchen entrance, which resembles a futuristic spaceship gate and adds pizzazz to the home. In keeping with the industrial theme, it was made of metal mesh with a hazard tape-inspired design, which Kelvin says was inspired by zombie-apocalypse movies.

And what's industrial decor without exposed brick walls? The couple used it for their kitchen backsplash as having it in the living room would have been "too common", says the wife. Additional layers of lacquer were applied to the surface to make it easier to clean.

Wood-look vinyl flooring runs through the entire interiors, complementing the cold



metallic elements. Pulling the rustic-industrial look together, this combination of materials extends to the furniture pieces, and influenced the use of distressed wood-lookalike wallpaper in the living room.

By laying off the structural alterations, the couple was able to keep the budget to an affordable RM165,000 (excluding fixtures and furniture). Convincing them to accept such a design was no easy task, says Kelvin but, now, they're certainly assured that it works! ◆



T O P  
Lighting cables are hung from pulleys – an ingenious way to incorporate industrial elements.

A B O V E  
Most of the lighting in the apartment, such as these, were purchased from online shopping website Taobao.

L E F T  
A cluster of “windows” serves as a partial divider between the platform bed and the rest of the master bedroom.









# BREAKING THE MOULD

This light-filled supersized flat transcends boundaries in a way you'd never imagine.

## HOME

Two adjoining  
three-room flats

## SIZE

1,950sqf

## WHO

A couple and  
their dog

## LEFT

The homeowners transformed the common corridor between the two adjoining units into a lush terrace with potted plants and creepers. ➤





When this Singaporean-Dutch couple decided to uproot themselves from Abu Dhabi (where they lived in a two-storey villa), they didn't just ship themselves and their golden retriever back. Over the years, the pair had lovingly curated an extensive, highly personal collection of furnishings, antique heirloom pieces and evocative artwork – some painted by the lady of the house herself. These had to be transplanted to their new, downsized abode: an apartment comprising two three-room flats that were already combined when they bought it.

“Most people couldn't understand why

we chose public housing,” chuckled the wife, 32-year-old interior architect and artist Cheryl Chen. “But the location is convenient, and we wanted to challenge the perception of flats.”

She and her husband, Pieter Idenburg, who heads a creative firm, have created a home that definitely breaks the mould of a cookie-cutter unit – especially with its long, rectangular layout. The common areas take up a disproportionately large space, bookended by a terrace on one end (formerly the common corridor between the two units) and four petite rooms in a row on the other. “That's how we live – with large, loft-like ▶

**ABOVE**  
A full-height bookshelf for Pieter's vast library was a must-have storage solution.

**RIGHT**  
Most of the unit is visible the moment you enter the flat, with tall glass doors taking the place of non-structural walls. The couple's daily life centres around the 2.8m-long Suar wood table, where they eat and work.





TOP RIGHT  
To create more wall space in the lounge area for displaying artwork, and to ensure that it wouldn't compromise storage space, the couple created a long and narrow storeroom behind this wall.







**TOP LEFT**  
The kitchen is well-equipped to satisfy Pieter's passion for cooking. Glass panels above the counter allow the duo to interact when Cheryl is in the adjoining art studio.

**LEFT**  
The couple didn't buy new furniture. Instead, the eclectic mix in the home includes original designer pieces, custom-made furnishings and hand-me-downs.

**RIGHT**  
Hardy old-school mosaic flooring in the art studio allows Cheryl to work freely, without having to worry about damaging the flooring.

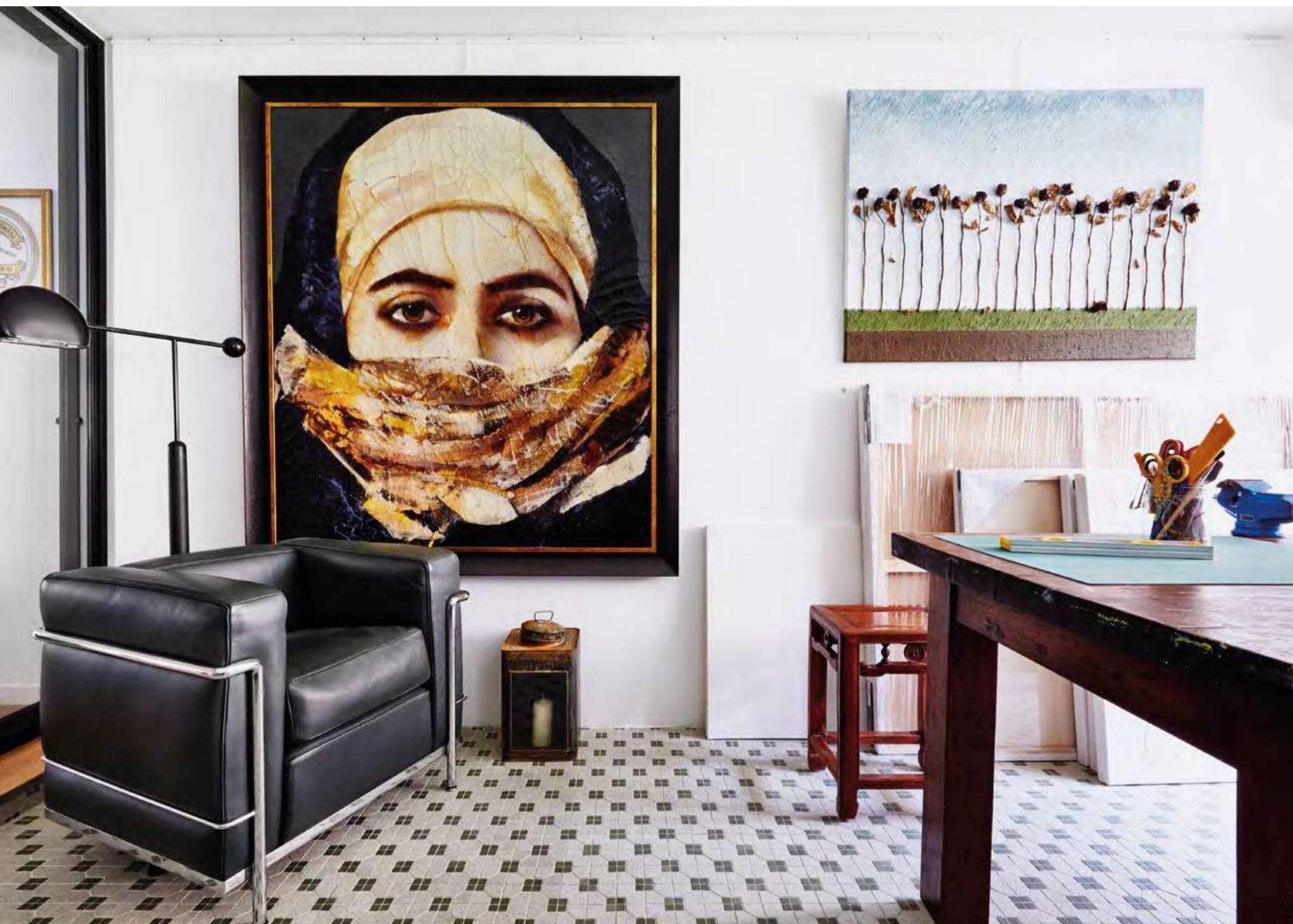




living spaces and small bedrooms. We're not into decorating spaces, but creating them," explains Cheryl.

A row of glass doors by the terrace allows sunlight into the home's interiors, bringing the outdoors inside. But the couple had to ensure that there were enough solid walls to hang their art collection on. To provide both storage and wall space, they built a long, narrow storeroom down one width of the common area.

Their enormous wood dining table, where they eat and work, dominates the common space. "We live around the table – we love its size and clunky legs," says Pieter. The home's new layout makes it easy to segue from the dining table to the seating ▶





area by the library for drinks, with plenty of chairs in a mix of styles throughout because “it’s nice to see which ones our friends choose”, he adds.

“We try not to make it look contrived. We don’t need everything to match,” Cheryl says. So, each space has its own character. Fronted by sliding see-through glass panels for doors, the differences are stark. For instance, her art studio features mosaic tile flooring and a worn-out work table, while the modern kitchen is decked out in black-and-white herringbone flooring. “We wanted each room to stand for itself. That’s what’s unique about this place,” explains Cheryl.





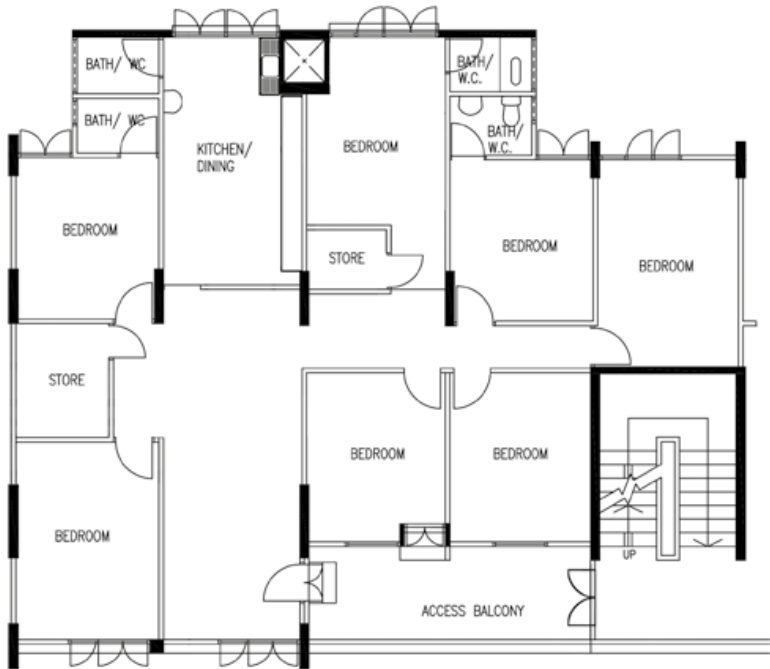
RIGHT  
For each of the home's bathrooms, Cheryl and Pieter combined two bathrooms from the original layout for a more comfortably sized area.

(OPPOSITE)  
LEFT  
A bespoke walk-in wardrobe is made cosy with plenty of wood.

RIGHT  
The contemporary master bedroom is furnished with mismatched bedside tables and a collage of photographs Cheryl took of Pieter walking through various spaces. ➤



# FLOOR PLAN



BEFORE



AFTER





LEFT  
The unassuming white aluminium fins on the side of the terrace provide privacy without making the couple feel boxed in, allowing them to comfortably open up the space. ●

The casual, relaxed vibe of the home is evident even before you step through the main door.



## DUST BUSTERS 2.0

Forget elbow grease: these state-of-the-art appliances incorporate the latest technology to keep your home spick and span.



### FOR SMALLER OBJECTS

#### Verilux Cleanwave VH01WW4 UV-C Sanitising Wand

This seems to work like magic, as there aren't any cleaning chemicals or water involved. Still, it cleans like a dream, according to end-user tests and reviews.

The Cleanwave Sanitising Wand eliminates 99.9 per cent of germs and bacteria by beaming ultraviolet light. The cordless wand comes with a rechargeable battery and adaptor, and is ideal for germ-busting hard-to-clean objects such as toys, pet beds and remote controls.

**RM711.30 from Qoo10.sg at**  
[www.tinyurl.com/CleanwaveWand](http://www.tinyurl.com/CleanwaveWand).

### FOR WINDOWS

#### Ecovacs Winbot W730

Cleaning the windows of your high-rise apartment can be a precarious affair: not only do you risk falling, but it's also tough wiping the hard-to-reach corners of each pane.

The Winbot 730 robotic window washer will take that risk for you:

it maps the edges of your window and cleans the entire surface area, hanging off vertical glass surfaces using a dual-suction-cup system. Cleaning agents can be applied to replaceable cleaning pads and no further maintenance is required.

**RM1,410 from Amazon.com at**  
[www.tinyurl.com/Winbot](http://www.tinyurl.com/Winbot).

### FOR GUTTERS

#### iRobot Looj 330 Gutter Cleaning Robot



Take the danger and fuss out of cleaning your roof gutters with the Looj 330, which automatically travels down guttering to clean leaves and dirt. Simply remove your gutter covers and set the robot to work. Control its direction with a remote control, or set it to the automatic clean mode.

The Looj 330 is waterproof, able to tread through 20cm of water, and can be cleaned easily with a hose. At just 5cm tall and 8cm wide, its small dimensions ensure that it can fit into most gutters.

**RM1,199.96 from Store.iRobot.com**  
**at** [www.tinyurl.com/Looj330](http://www.tinyurl.com/Looj330).



### FOR CORNERS

#### Neato XV Signature Pro Robot Vacuum Cleaner

While robot vacuum cleaners aren't new, this model's D-shaped design makes it stand out from the pack. Unlike circular-shaped robots, the Signature Pro is better equipped for cleaning room corners, making a second round of cleaning unnecessary.

Other functions include a cleaning scheduler, Room Positioning System technology to detect obstacles such as furniture legs, and a special pet and allergy HEPA filter.

**RM2,097 from Autovacstore.com at**  
[www.tinyurl.com/NeatoVacuum](http://www.tinyurl.com/NeatoVacuum). ●







photo CHANTEL LUCAS, STOCKSNAP.IO

# A GUIDE TO ART LICENSING

Creating unique, individually inspired works of art or designs requires much time and focused attention from an artist. Art licensing is a loan of art, images, or designs from an artist to a manufacturer so that they can put it on their product for a certain time period, with certain restrictions on usage depending on contracted terms.

Any product which can be modified to include images on them, from collectibles to home decor to decals, can be involved in art licensing. This includes sunglasses, apparel, movies, greeting cards, reproduced prints, dinnerware, paper products, lunch boxes, t-shirts, shower curtains, calendars, billboards, websites, and et cetera.

**Licensing for artists**

• Reinforce your own brand and form a business instead of selling originals, or selling designs outright.

- Build up residual income with multiple streams of income from a single piece of art.
- Earn royalties on products sold or a flat fee for the loan of the art.
- Retain ownership and copyright of your art.
- Share your art with more people with the distribution power of licensors.

- Get more publicity through joint marketing efforts with licensees.
- Receive regular income.



<p><b>Licensing for businesses and consumers</b></p> <p>You may be able to reduce in-house design costs and move your business up the value chain by developing effective art licensing plans. Uniqlo has licensed art from Disney and LINE to promote its apparel among the young.</p> <p>Some small businesses that are considering licensing assume licensors prefer to work with larger, well-established licensees. What licensors are more concerned with though, is that potential licensees have a solid track record of making quality products. Small businesses interested in obtaining a license must be willing to submit to financial scrutiny, provide references,</p>	<p>describe their available sales force and retail accounts, and make sales projections.</p> <p>There is no hard and fast rule on how a licensing contract should be. At the end of the day, it is up to the mutual intention and agreement of the artist and the licensee company. It is highly advisable for both parties to consult a lawyer before entering into any art licensing contracts to make sure your rights and risks are protected.</p> <p>One common mistake made by blog owners, website owners, web designers, graphic designers, media companies, charity organisations and anyone who posts content on the internet is the unknowing uploading</p>	<p>of photos saved from Google images without realising that many of these images are copyrighted property of the photographers who took them.</p> <p>Copyright infringement can occur wilfully or 'accidentally', but copyright law prohibits both.</p> <p>Since 2012, tens of thousands of individuals and organisations have received letters of demand from Getty Images Inc., a Seattle-based stock photo giant with an archive of 80 million still images, illustrations and more than 50,000 hours of stock film footage. In 2014, Getty filed several federal copyright-infringement lawsuits over images it claims have been used without its permission. ➤</p>
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OPPOSITE PAGE  
Photographs can be licensed to large stock photo corporations.

ABOVE  
The KORT printed art cards from Ikea credits Johanna Fernihough as the artist.



photo IKEA



Licensing is a great way for artists to share their work through the platforms of larger corporations. Pictured here is Julia Trigg's Tvilling posters, which are sold as prints in Ikea.



photo IKEA

## 10 CLAUSES FOR YOUR LICENSING AGREEMENT

1. Works of art by licensor.
2. Types of products the art will be reproduced on.
3. Written agreement to put by licensor's copyright notice on every product sold, any advertisement or brochure for products which bear by licensor's art.
4. The countries in which the products will be sold.
5. Written agreement to indemnify licensor from lawsuits that might arise from their business activities which relate to products carrying the art.
6. Duration for the licensee to bring to market products with licensor's art.
7. Termination date of the agreement.
8. Renewal terms and Cancellation clause.
9. Quantum of non-refundable advance payment to be made to licensor against future royalties, specific royalty percentages to be paid on a quarterly basis, and the requirement that each royalty check be accompanied by a clear statement of how licensee came up with the royalty amount.
10. Licensor's right to have licensee's books audited at licensor's own expense to make certain amounts paid is what is due.



Be careful when looking up images online, as they may be copyrighted.



DO'S AND DON'TS FOR BUSINESSES

- DO use your own photography.
- DO subscribe to a stock photography library.
- DO check stock images licensing terms before using them.
- DO e-mail the owners for permission if unsure.
- DON'T use photos, images, or graphics with unknown origins, e.g. Google Images.

TYPES OF STOCK IMAGES

Royalty free

Pay a one-time fee to use the non-exclusive image multiple times for multiple purposes (with limitations).

Public domain

Image is free to use for commercial or personal purposes as many times by as many people as desired without having to purchase a license. Some photos do require a model or property release.

Rights-managed

Terms of use of the image are negotiated and clearly defined in a license agreement which includes usage purpose, duration of use, print run, territory and exclusivity.

In a statement, Getty said that they 'only seek payment from registered businesses that are using an artists's exclusive content to promote their own business'.

Corporations, large and small, can fall into the trap of art copyright infringement as in the case of Maya Hayuk vs Starbucks Corporation.

Ms Hayuk, a professional visual artist who has done work for Billabong, Microsoft, Sony, General Motors and Reebok, recently sued Starbucks for allegedly 'reproducing, distributing, and otherwise using significant portions of Hayuk's original copyrighted works of art without her permission or authority in an extensive worldwide advertising and marketing campaign'.\*

Hayuk had been in discussions with the coffee giant last October to add some colourful flourishes to promote 'Mini Frappuccinos'. Hayuk walked away from the deal, but Starbucks apparently got in-house artist Jordan Kay to create a 'look-alike'.

According to the New York Post, the campaign 'used the same abstract, radiating beams of black, white, yellow, magenta and azure that Hayuk had used in a series of five paintings'.

She is seeking \$750,000 in copyright penalties plus unspecified cash damages. The suit is currently ongoing in the Manhattan Federal Court.

Ironically, even Getty has violated copyright law "accidentally". In 2010, freelance photographer Daniel Morel posted 13 pictures of the Haitian earthquake on Twitter. AFP discovered the images and distributed some to Getty. The Washington Post, a client of Getty, then published four pictures on its official website.

AFP sued Morel seeking a judgment to lawfully use the photos following Morel's accusations that the company was using them improperly. Morel countersued AFP, Getty and The Washington Post for copyright infringement.

AFP argued that it could use the pictures because they were freely available on Twitter. However, the learned judge disagreed as Twitter's service terms do not allow a license for using images for commercial use and slapped AFP and Getty with a \$1.22 million fine which they are appealing. Morel settled with the Post in October last year. ●

CONTRIBUTED BY

RAYMOND MAH  
LLB (Hons), BEcon, (UQ) CLP  
Managing Partner &  
Head of Dispute Resolution  
MahWengKwai & Associates  
raymond.mah@mahwengkwai.com

LIM JO YAN  
BA (Oxon), CLP  
Head of Corporate & Commercial  
MahWengKwai & Associates  
joyan.lim@mahwengkwai.com

\* [WWW.SCRIBD.COM/DOC/269666434/MAYA-HAYUK-V-STARBUCKS-CORPORATION#SCRIBD](http://WWW.SCRIBD.COM/DOC/269666434/MAYA-HAYUK-V-STARBUCKS-CORPORATION#SCRIBD)





design DESMOND ONG photography TAN WEI TE

as dents, cracks, holes and flaking paint. Glossy surfaces also need to be sanded down slightly. The walls have to be cleaned so that the paint can go on smoothly and not trap dirt.

Then, you'll have to mask the areas you don't want paint on, such as wall sockets, window and door frames, and skirtings. If you have furniture in the room, you'll have to move them out of the way, or cover them up.

You might also want to prime your surfaces with a sealer if you're painting over a newly plastered surface, or repainting a powdery one. And all that comes before you even apply your desired colour. You'll need two coats of your top coat paint, letting each coat dry in between.

The good news is that new formulations have made paint almost odour-free, so you won't be inhaling toxic fumes as you paint.

If the above just sounds like too much work, big paint companies such as Dulux and Nippon Paints offer professional painting services that will do all of the above prep work – plus arrange a pre-painting site visit – offer a colour consultation, move your furniture for you and provide a warranty for paint defects. ➤

Q&A

YOUR RENO & DECOR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

**Is wood furniture eco-friendly? After all, they would need to cut down a tree to use its wood.**

The process of making any piece of furniture uses up resources from the environment, whether it is made of wood, metal or plastic.

Trees reduce the carbon dioxide in the air, contribute to the water cycle, and maintain biodiversity in forests. But the management of wood resources is regulated in some countries so that the wood is sustainable, meaning that the material is renewable, can be easily found, and replaced easily. Trees that come from plantations are replanted once they are felled.

If you're concerned about where the wood used for a piece of furniture is from, ask the shop. Look for certifications from organisations such as the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), or the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest

Certification (PEFC), which are watchdogs for responsible forestry management practices.

Beyond the label, buy good-quality designs that will stand the test of time; pieces made of one kind of wood, and countries with established certification practices, such as the US and Indonesia.

Some wood, such as rubber wood, are also sustainable as they are by-products of another industry. Locally, you can get certified as well as repurposed-wood furniture from shops such as Mountain Teak, Journey East and Ethnecraft.

**To save money, I'm thinking of painting the walls of my home myself. Is that a good idea?**

It all depends on how much time you have, and the desired outcome. For long-lasting results, it is always advisable to prep your walls before painting. That means fixing things such



**Solar panels have been around for a while – are they cheaper now? What do I need to take note of before installing them?**

Seeing that it’s only going to get hotter in Singapore, getting a solar photovoltaic (PV) system for your house, which converts sunlight into electricity, is a smart move and will save you money in the long run.

The initial investment may be high, but the cost of solar PV systems has been falling by about 4 per cent a year, says the Energy Market Authority and the Building and Construction Authority.

The cost of your system will depend on many factors, such as the actual equipment used, labour cost, how and where it is mounted on the building, the system size or rating, and the amount of electricity it produces.

“Generally speaking, it is around RM30,000 for an inter-terrace unit, RM60,000 to RM90,000 for a semi-detached home, and upwards for a larger home,” says Zachary Wang from

Rezeca Renewables, a solar energy equipment supplier which has been around for six years. The company also offers a hire-purchase scheme with no upfront payment.

Operating costs for solar PV systems are negligible, but annual maintenance costs beyond the warranty period may amount to 0.5 to 1 per cent of the installation cost. “The only maintenance is to keep the panels clean,” says Zachary. His company also helps customers monitor the performance of the system in real time so that they can respond quickly to any problems.

With larger solar PV systems, customers can “recoup” their investment in as little as six years; or seven to eight years for standard-size systems, he adds. Also, any excess electricity that’s produced can be sold back to the power grid.

To get more details, a useful *Handbook for Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Systems*, published by the



Design SPACE SENSE photography DARREN CHANG

Energy Market Authority and the Building and Construction Authority, is available for free download at [www.tinyurl.com/SolarSingapore](http://www.tinyurl.com/SolarSingapore).

**It would be nice to design my own furniture and get someone to build it, but will it end up costing much more than what’s in the shops?**

It is an additional source of pride for homeowners to say they designed the furniture in their home (especially if it turns out well!). Depending on the materials used, and the construction methods, creating your own bespoke furniture could even save you money.

Kelvin Teo of Space Sense says that the most commonly requested pieces he is asked to design and build are dining tables, benches and bookshelves. “I don’t get asked to do sofas, as people usually want to sit and try the sofa before they buy,” he says.

According to him, a customised dining table can cost as little as

RM4,500. For this price, he has built one with metal legs and a homogeneous tile surface which looks like wood. “The tile had a realistic texture, is waterproof, and resistant to scratches as well, unlike real wood,” he recalls.

He has also built more unique designs, such as a table resembling an aeroplane wing, which cost RM10,800. It was wrapped with an aluminium plate, riveted, and with an I-beam as the leg, connected to a metal base. Bookshelves can cost between RM6,000 and RM9,600 to build. Customised furniture can be done in a month or two.

To save money, clients sometimes ask Kelvin to replicate the look of furniture they see in shops. “I can recreate the look, but because we can’t get the same material, it won’t look exactly like the original, although it might be cheaper,” he explains.

Moulded plastic furniture and other pieces that require specialised equipment cannot be made either, he adds. ●



### The Smart Scoop™ by Breville

How do you like your ice cream? Some like it soft, while others like it on the firmer side. Whether you like sorbets, frozen yoghurts or gelatos, Breville's "Smart Scoop" is the machine for you! It comes with a pre-cool function that allows the machine to cool down to  $-30^{\circ}\text{C}$ , so your ice cream is made quicker, and ready sooner. And if you don't have the time to sit around for the ice-cream to get done, worry not! The machine keeps your ice cream cool for up to three hours after it's ready. Durable and easy to clean, the Smart Scoop boasts stainless-steel housing with BPA-free internal parts.

For more information, visit [www.breville.com](http://www.breville.com)



### Pensonic multi-cooker PMC-150

You can cook almost everything with the Pensonic multi-cooker: stewed, steamed or even deep-fried foods. You can even entertain a large party with its five litre capacity! A removable, non-stick inner pot ensures easy cooking and clean up. With its adjustable temperature control function, the multi-cooker is perfect for hotpot dinners with the family.

For more information, visit [www.pensonic.com](http://www.pensonic.com)



### Pensonic PBO-5620D console oven

If the oven is your favourite appliance, and one you use often, Pensonic's PBO-5620D Console Oven will most certainly tickle your fancy. With a temperature range between  $50^{\circ}\text{C}$  to  $250^{\circ}\text{C}$  and A-grade energy efficiency, this oven packs a powerful punch at 3100W. Its spacious 56 litre capacity ensures you'll never again have to worry about how much you can cook at the same time. You can also do your cooking with peace of mind, knowing that you and yours are protected from accidental burns with a three-layered tempered glass door and child lock capabilities. The oven also comes with a touch sensor control panel and LED display for ease.

For more information, visit [www.pensonic.com](http://www.pensonic.com)





**“The Kitchen Wizz”  
by Breville**

Precise preparation is important. Equally-sized pieces that have been accurately cut will cook at the same rate, which is the variable that so often makes and breaks a dish. With Breville’s Kitchen Wizz, a food processor with a two litre capacity, you can slice, shred, cut and chop without any real effort. Stainless steel blades provide ease and accuracy, exponentially decreasing the amount of time you spend on food preparation as well as ensuring your food both tastes, and looks better.

For more information, visit [www.breville.com](http://www.breville.com)



**Sharp Healsio AX1600 inverter oven**

Steam is the primary method of cooking for the Sharp Healsio inverter oven, a genius piece of equipment with four functions: superheated steam, steam, oven, and microwave. The machinery essentially allows for you to steam, bake, grill, roast, and fry. With its superheated steam and low oxygen methods of cooking, the inverter oven permits for the use of less oil, thereby reducing unwanted calories in cooking whilst retaining the nutrients in your food. With a hefty output of 1250W and a spacious 31 litre capacity, there appears to be nothing that this oven cannot cook.

For more information, visit [www.sharp.com.my](http://www.sharp.com.my)



**Cuisinart programmable conical burr mill**

Grinding your coffee has never been easier. Made from elegant brushed stainless-steel, Cuisinart’s programmable conical burr mill will grind your coffee beans in the most uniform manner possible while maintaining its natural flavours and oils. The mill allows you to pre-program the amount of coffee you grind, so you can rest assured there will be absolutely zero wastage. You can also choose how fine you want your coffee to be: ultra-fine for gourmet espressos or extra-coarse for French-press coffees. ●

For more information, visit [www.cuisinart.com](http://www.cuisinart.com)





# MAKING SCENTS

A clean and healthy home should smell of – nothing! Most chemical air fresheners are filled with toxins that irritate the body and trigger allergies. Here are five tried-and-tested ways to naturally eliminate odours.



**Method**

Fill a spray bottle with one cup of plain distilled white vinegar. Add 20 drops of essential oil. Spray directly onto affected areas. Let it sit for 10 minutes, then wipe away. Repeat until the smell is gone. However, do not use vinegar on stone surfaces such as marble or granite.

**VODKA + ESSENTIAL OILS**

If guests are coming over and you need a quick fix, alcohol can help the scent of essential oils last longer.

**Method**

Fill a spray bottle with ¼ cup of plain vodka and ¼ cup of water. Add 10 to 20 drops of essential oil. Something bright and fresh, such as bergamot, lemon or grapefruit, is a great choice to combat stale odours.

**BAKING SODA + ESSENTIAL OILS**

Make your own odour-busting powder with baking soda, which eliminates the molecules in the air that cause bad smells.

**Method**

Mix one cup of baking soda with 15 to 20 drops of your favourite essential oil. Sprinkle the scented baking soda over your upholstery, carpet, mattress and soft furnishings. Let it sit for 20 minutes, then vacuum it. Store powder in an airtight container.

You can also pour some onto a plate and leave it where there may be strong odours. This is best used in small spaces, the refrigerator, the bathroom or the closet.

**BLACK CHARCOAL**

Long prized for its ability to adsorb smells, activated charcoal (charcoal that's been heat-treated, creating small pores that increase surface area, for better adsorption) is added

to many odour-removing products. On its own, pure charcoal is non-toxic and can last up to six months.

**Method**

Look for activated charcoal, which is usually sold in sticks. Buy those that come in a bag, as they can easily stain. Otherwise, wrap them before use. Place them all around the house where there is high humidity or bad odours, such as in closets, drawers and where you keep your shoes!

**VINEGAR + ESSENTIAL OILS**

If you're dealing with humidity and musty odours, you'll need to eliminate the root cause – mould and fungus. Vinegar is a powerful antimicrobial agent – it kills bacteria, mould and fungus. Essential oils have powerful cleansing properties of their own. Tea tree oil, lavender, thyme and cinnamon are great for preventing mould and fungus.

**BEESWAX CANDLES**

Candles will add a lovely fragrance to your home, but stay away from paraffin and scented candles. These will only fill your home with toxins and chemicals. Beeswax candles have a natural honey scent and emit negative ions when they burn, which help to purify the air. ●

**TIP!**

Prevention is always better than cure. Make sure to address any leaks at home, as humidity will breed bacteria, mould and fungus. If odours are wafting in from an open window, switch on a fan to circulate the air.



# buying guide

YOUR ONE-STOP RESOURCE FOR PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

## MALAYSIA

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### Acacia Fine Fabrics

tel: +603-4252-3378  
www.acaciafabrics.com

### A-Jung Electric Sdn Bhd

Suite E-06-08,  
Plaza Mont Kiara,  
Kuala Lumpur  
tel: +603-6201-9101

### Akemi Uchi

www.akemiuchi.com

### Alpha

tel: +603-5740-6666  
www.alphamalaysia.com

### Bangsar Shopping Centre

www.bsc.com.my

### BoConcept

T112 Bangsar Shopping Centre,  
Kuala Lumpur  
tel: +603-2011-0178

### Bilton Industrial Products Sdn Bhd

95 & 95-1 Jalan 1/17  
Off Jalan Kepong  
Taman Fadason  
52000 Kuala Lumpur  
tel: +603-6257-6327

### Bosch

www.bosch-home.com.my

### Caesarstone

www.caesarstone.com.sg

### Eastern Decorator Sdn Bhd WHITE ROOM (Eastern Decorator Sdn Bhd)

Suite E-3A, Level 3A,  
Corporate Bulding (Block E),  
Southgate Centre, No2, Jalan  
Dua, Off Jalan Chan Sow Lin,  
Kuala Lumpur  
tel: +603-9222-3488

### Electrolux

tel: 1300-88-1122

### Feruni Ceramiche

12 Jalan 213  
Petaling Jaya  
tel: +603-7784-7277

### Goodrich Global

M-2-2 Block M  
Plaza Damas Phase II  
Kuala Lumpur  
tel: +603-6201-5757

### Gudang Damansara

S15 Bangsar  
Shopping Centre  
Kuala Lumpur  
tel: +603-2092-2618

### Guocera

5th Floor Wisma Kemajuan  
No 2 jalan 19/1B  
Petaling Jaya  
tel: +603-7958-7922

### Harvey Norman

For store listing, go to  
www.harveynorman.com.my

### Hafele

18 Jalan Juruhebah U1/50,  
Glenmarie, Selangor  
tel: +603-5569-2526

### Hitachi

Suite17.3, Level 17  
Menara IMC,  
Jalan Sultan Ismail  
Kuala Lumpur  
tel: +603-2031-8751

### Ikea

2 Jalan PJU7/2  
Mutiar Damansara  
Petaling Jaya  
tel: +603-7726-7777

### Interfal

No 45 & 47  
Jalan SS18/1B  
Subang Jaya.  
tel: +603-5638-9213

### Janine

S112 Bangsar  
Shopping Centre  
Kuala Lumpur  
tel: +603-2094-9530

### J & J Chesters Malaysia Sdn Bhd

Block B-0-1, Megan Avenue  
1, 189 Jalan Tun Razak  
Kuala Lumpur  
tel: +603-2166-4121

### Johnson Suisse

www.johnsonsuisse.com.my

### KDK

3rd Floor,  
No 15 Jalan Tandang  
Petaling Jaya  
tel: +603-7785-5011

### Kingres Marketing Sdn Bhd

Lot 5, Jalan Kilang/  
Jalan 217  
Petaling Jaya  
tel: +603-7783-9811

### Kitch

G16 Bangunan  
Perdagangan D7  
800 Jalan Sentul  
Kuala Lumpur  
tel: +6018-599-8233

### Kitchenaid

tel: +603-7877-5216

### Legrand

Lot 1888, Jalan KPB7,  
Kawasan Perindustrian  
Balakong, Selangor  
tel: +603-8962-3333

### LG

tel: 1800-822-822  
www.lg.com

### Lightcraft

145 Jalan Sungai Besi  
Kuala Lumpur  
tel: +603-9222-2413

### Ligne Roset

S3 Pamper Floor  
Starhill Gallery  
Kuala Lumpur  
tel: +603-2710-3388

### Linds Furniture

162 Jalan Maarof  
Kuala Lumpur  
tel: +603-2094-6055

### Lorenzo

For store listing, go to  
www.lorenzo-international.com

### Marco Corporation (M) Sdn Bhd

2-2nd Floor, Jalan  
Segambut,  
Kuala Lumpur  
tel: +603-4043-3111

### Metrojaya

www.metrojaya.com.my

### Miele

Menara Kencana Petroleum  
Solaris Dutamas  
Kuala Lumpur  
tel: +603-6205-3899

### MML (Malaysian Mosaics Sdn Bhd

1A Jalan 205,  
Off Jalan Tandang  
Petaling Jaya  
tel: +603-7718-7333

### Muji

5.10.00 Pavilion KL  
Kuala Lumpur  
tel: +603-2141-0223

### Nippon Paint

tel: 1800-88-2663  
www.nipponpaint.com.my

### Niro Ceramic (M) Sdn Bhd

Lot 2, Persiaran Sultan  
Section 15  
Petaling Jaya  
tel: +603-5033-9333

### Panasonic

Lot 10, Jalan 13/2  
Petaling Jaya  
tel: +603-7953-7600

### Rubine

Fiamma Tradings Sdn Bhd  
WismaFiamma  
No. 20, Jalan 7A/62A,  
Bandar Menjalara,  
Kuala Lumpur  
tel: +603-6279-8888

### Pensonic

tel: 1800-881-770  
www.pensonic.com

### Robinsons

The Gardens Mall  
Kuala Lumpur  
tel: +603-2089-1188

### Samsung

Suite E-09-01,  
Level 9 East Wing  
ICON Jalan Tun Razak  
Kuala Lumpur  
tel: +603-2165-0000

### Sharp

No 1A Persiaran Kuala  
Langat Section 27  
Shah Alam  
tel: +603-5102-5311

### Signature Kitchen

Lot 24 Jalan Teknologi  
Taman Sains Selangor 1  
Kota Damansara  
tel: +603-6286-7000

### Space Furniture

3-12 The Intermark Mall  
Kuala Lumpur  
tel: +603-2166-2212

### Stadler Form-Blue Orange Resources Sdn Bhd

Storage Systems  
15-2-3, Megan Corporate  
Park, Block B, Jalan 1/125E,  
Taman Desa Petaling,  
Kuala Lumpur  
tel: +603-9057-7933

### Studio At 216 Sdn Bhd

The Gardens L2 Unit S216,  
Lingkar Syed Putra,  
59200 KL  
tel: 03-2201 1798  
www.studio216.co

### Teka

tel: +603-7620-1600

### Terracotta Tiles

15 Jalan Pendidik U1/31  
Hicom Glenmarie  
Shah Alam  
tel: +603-5569-4799

### Toshiba

tel: +603-5565-8000  
www.toshiba.com.my

### White Horse Ceramic

tel: 1800-88-1880  
www.whitehorse.com.my

### White Room

www.whiteroom.asia

### Vanguard Interiors

D1-G/M Jalan Selaman 1  
Dataran Palma,  
Ampang, Selangor  
tel: +603-4270-3933

### Visionary Solutions Sdn Bhd

A-G-08 Block Allamanda,  
10 Boulevard, Lebuhraya  
Sprint, PJU 6A, 47400,  
Petaling Jaya  
tel: +603-7710-5877

### Vluz Concept (M) Sdn Bhd

40, Desa Sri Hartamas,  
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Instead of taking the traditional route by turning the balcony a makeshift garden or laundry area, why not use the space as an extension of your living area? Make the balcony a cosy area, and entertain your guests in the space. You

and your loved ones can also lounge about, luxuriating in the sunlight. Whether it is sipping wine or huddling in with a good book, you can make your balcony a place of refuge in the home, a place where you can enjoy some fresh air.

You could also turn the balcony into a romantic dining area. Install some synthetic turf and furnish the space with a quaint dining set, and you'll have a place to watch the glittering lights of the city unfold before your eyes once the sun sets.

Inspired? Balconies can be versatile spaces too. All you need is a little bit of imagination! ●



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